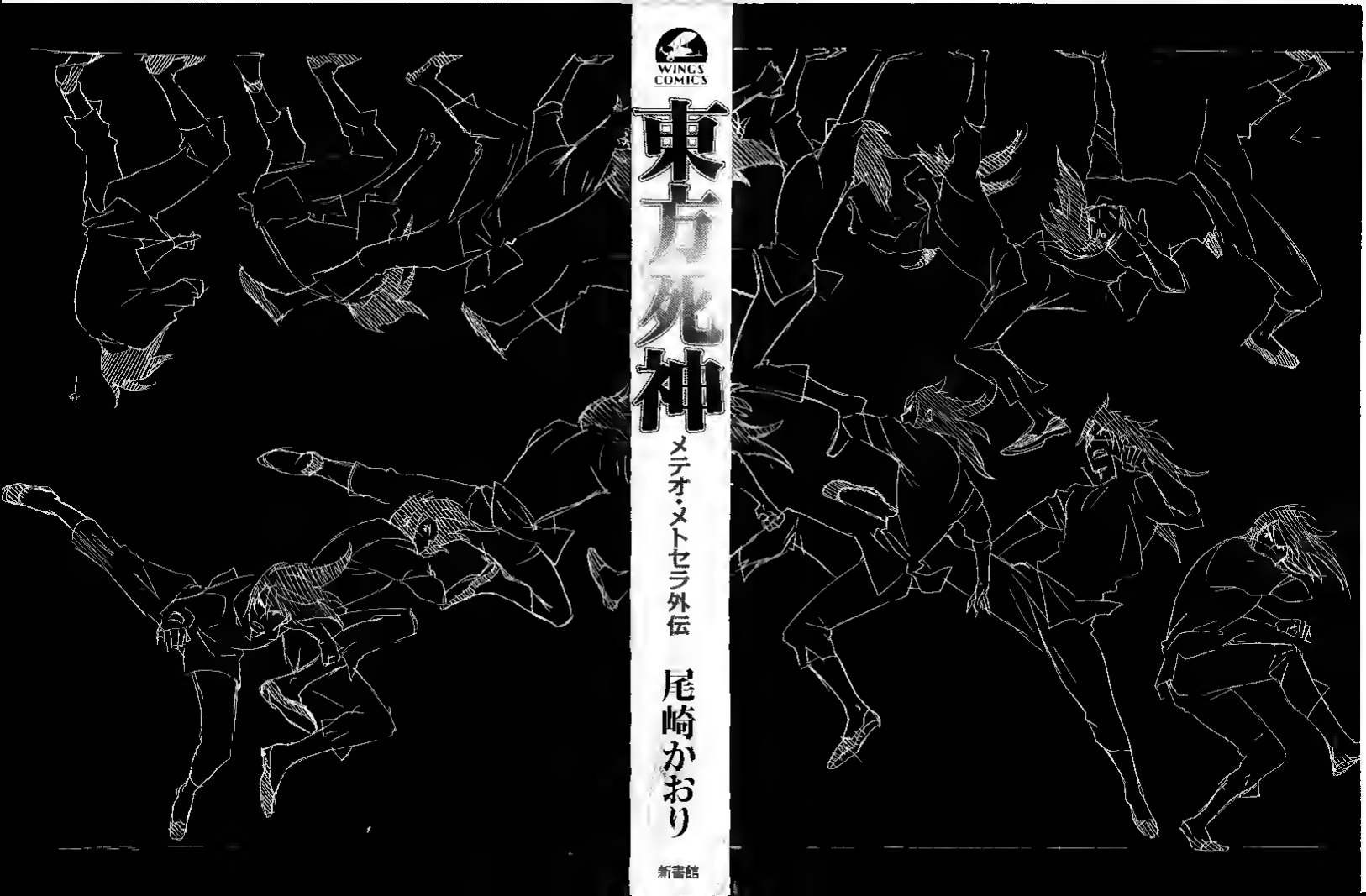

WINGS COMICS

東方死神

メテオ・メトセラ外伝

尾崎かおり

新書館

メテオ・メトセラ外伝

東方死神

KAORI OZAKI

尾崎かおり

WINGS COMICS

東方死神

メテオ・メトセラ外伝

尾崎かおり

新書館

BUT MUCH TO HIS SURPRISE, THE SUPPOSEDLY DEAD MAN POPS OUT OF THE COFFIN! IS THIS THE WORLD'S MOST WANTED MAN, METHUSELAH? THIS IS THE ADVENTURE-PACKED TALE OF THE FATEFUL ENCOUNTER BETWEEN ZOL, THE "GRIM REAPER" AND GRANDFATHER TO METEOR METHUSELAH'S SUPER HEROINE MACHIKA, AND THE METHUSELAH NAMED RAIN!!

ZOL, A BOUNTY HUNTER WHO GOES BY THE NICKNAME OF "GRIM REAPER", SPENDS HIS DAYS CHASING CRIMINALS UNDER THE ORDERS OF FUSA, HIS MASTER AND THE CITY'S RESPECTED MAYOR. ONE DAY, ZOL TAKES UP RESPONSIBILITY FOR BURYING A MAN WHO DIED IN A HIT-AND-RUN ON THE STREETS.

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東方死神

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東方死神

メテオ・メトセラ外伝

Kaori OZAKI
尾崎かおり

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東方死神

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BACK STAGE

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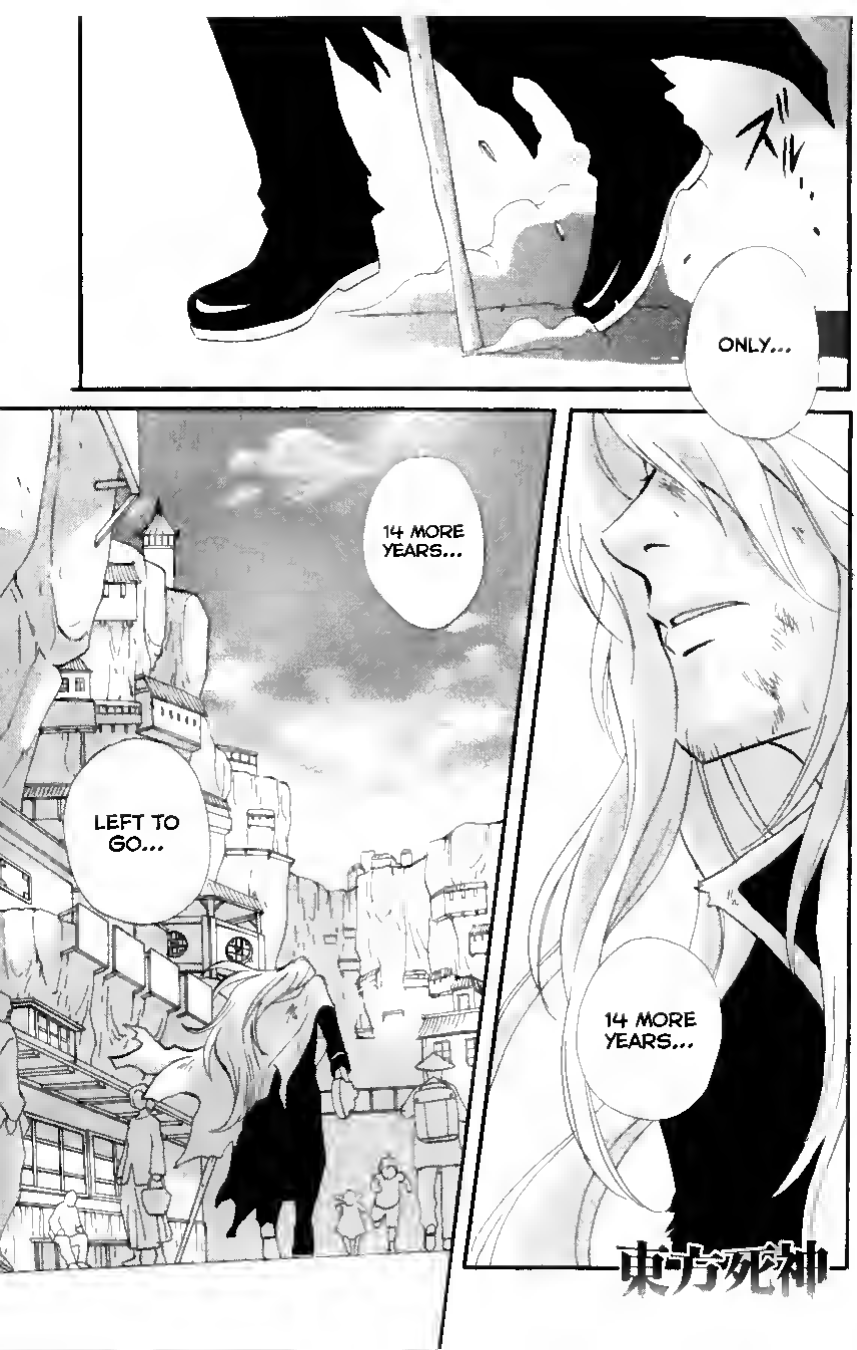
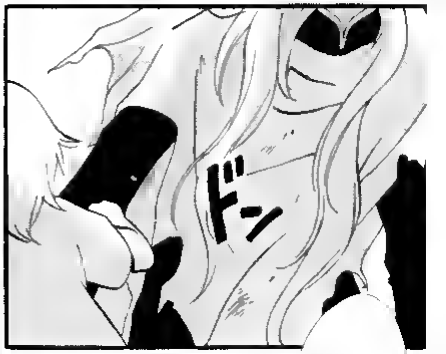
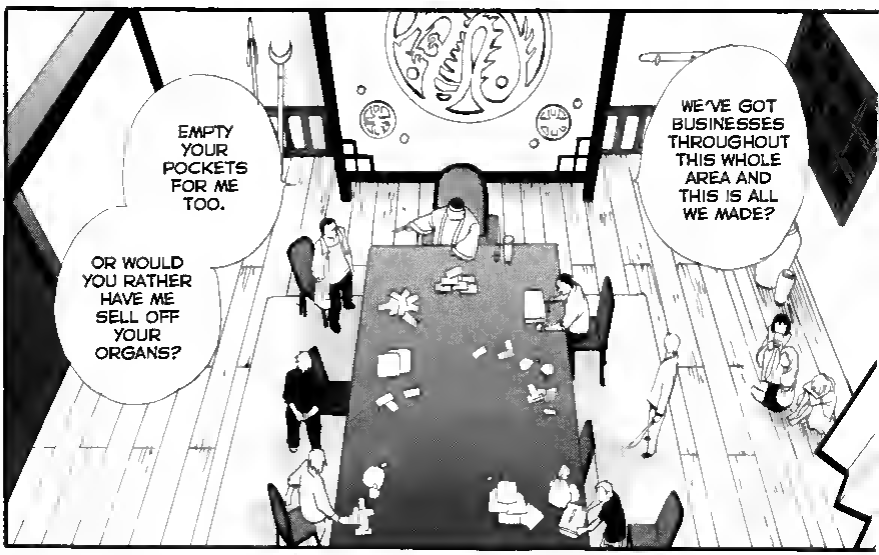

ズル...
ONLY...
14 MORE YEARS...
LEFT TO GO...
14 MORE YEARS...
東方死神


ドン

AH!
ゴゴゴ

ハンン..
THIS...
...IS THE TALE OF THEIR MEETING.
THREE WOMEN...
WE'D GET AROUND 80 IF WE SELL THEM OFF.

THE BROTHEL MADE 300. THE OPIUM GOT US 200.
THEN THERE'S 600 FROM THE BLACK MARKET.


WE'VE GOT BUSINESSES THROUGHOUT THIS WHOLE AREA AND THIS IS ALL WE MADE?
EMPTY YOUR POCKETS FOR ME TOO.
OR WOULD YOU RATHER HAVE ME SELL OFF YOUR ORGANS?

...
PUTTING THAT MATTER ASIDE, IF FUSA FINDS OUT ABOUT THIS, THEN WE'RE ALL DEAD MEAT.
IS IT REALLY SAFE FOR US TO BE OPERATING IN THIS TOWN?

WE'LL BE FINE. I ALREADY BRIBED THE HIGHWAY OFFICIALS.
I WONDER WHY NO ONE ELSE HAS TRIED TO MOVE IN ON THIS TOWN.
YOU'RE NOT FROM AROUND HERE, SO YOU WOULDN'T KNOW.
THIS TOWN...
...HAS A GRIM REAPER.

GYA AAA AA!!
W-W-W-WHO THE HELL IS THIS GUY?!
WHAT HAPPENED TO THE GUARDS?!

SHI—
IT'S ZOL, THE GRIM REAPER!!
BOSS! IT'S HIM!!

GYAA AAA !!
RUN FOR IT!!

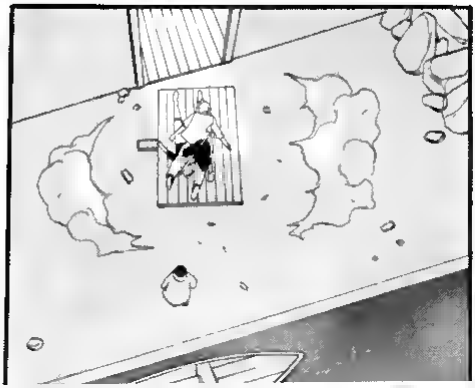
FORGET ABOUT THE MONEY ALREADY!
YOU MORON !!
KHE!
BOSS!!
PLEASE OPEN THE DOOR!!
OPEN UP!!
ARE YOU ONLY TRYING TO SAVE YOUR-SELF?!

SHIT! HE'S HERE!!
GAH!!
パン!!
ビシッ!

GEH!
ゴキッ
AH...!

バキッ

AHH...
AH...



AH...AHH
...
AHHH!!

WA-
WA-
WAIT!!!
I'M BEGGING YOU!!
WAIT!! DON'T KILL ME!!
PLEASE DON'T KILL ME!!!

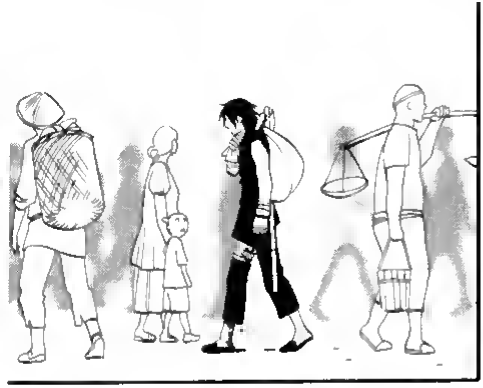
.....
I-I'LL STOP DEALING IN THIS SHADY BUSINESS!
MY WIFE AND CHILDREN ARE SICK AT HOME!
M-MY...
I'M BEGGING YOU!
JUST SPARE MY LIFE!

...HA!!
IS THIS GUY AN IDIOT?!
SOME GRIM REAPER HE IS!

迷犯
首引き換え
347
EYE COLOR MATCH. DENTAL MATCH. BLOOD TYPE MATCH.
WANTED FOR MURDER, INCITING MURDER, HUMAN TRAFFICKING, AND SMUGGLING OPIUM.
THAT'S QUITE THE LAUNDRY LIST.
FIRST-CLASS BOUNTY IS CONFIRMED.
ポン
UHH... SO THAT MAKES FIVE HEADS AND TWO CAPTURED ALIVE.

THIS IS YOUR TOTAL AMOUNT.
HERE YOU GO.
H-HEY ...
CAN I SPEAK WITH YOU FOR A MOMENT?
PSST PSST
WHAT IS IT?
WELL... THAT CRIMINAL WAS THE BOSS OF THE EASTERN MAFIA.
BESIDES, JUST TAKE A LOOK.
HE ALWAYS TAKES THE CORPSES' HEADS AND LUGS THEM BACK HOME WITH HIM.
KEEP IT DOWN, WILL YOU!
THAT GUY CAN'T COUNT MONEY.
WON'T IT BE BIG TROUBLE IF THAT GUY NOTICES THAT YOU TOTALLY STIFFED HIM ON THE REWARD MONEY?!

THE GUY'S NOT IN IT FOR THE MONEY.
HE JUST ENJOYS KILLING.
HEY, ZOL...
DID YOU GET SHOT?
UH-HUH.
HE DOESN'T CARE!
YOU MIGHT DIE, Y'KNOW.
HAHA! I GUESS HE MESSED UP THIS TIME!

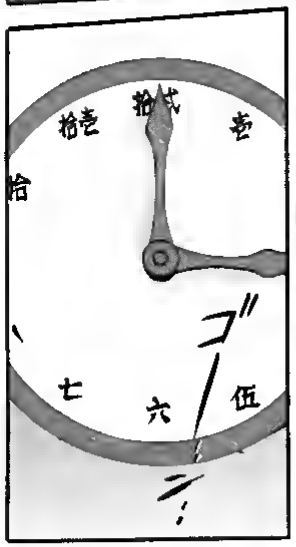


仙亭

ZOL!
HM?
PERFECT TIMING!
I'D LIKE YOU TO DO SOMETHING FOR ME.

HOW TERRIBLE!
THEY SAY HE WAS HIT BY A CAR.
HE MUST'VE DIED UPON IMPACT.
AND IT DOESN'T SEEM LIKE THE GUY HAS ANY RELATIVES LOOKS LIKE HE'S A DRIFTER.
SO CAN YOU TAKE CARE OF THE BURIAL FOR ME?
HANDLING CORPSES IS RIGHT UP YOUR ALLEY, RIGHT?
IT'D BE SUCH A PAIN FOR ME TO DEAL WITH ALL THE PROCEDURES IF I CALL IN A CLEAN-UP CREW.

...VERY WELL.
MOVE ALONG, PEOPLE! NOTHING TO SEE HERE!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拾弐
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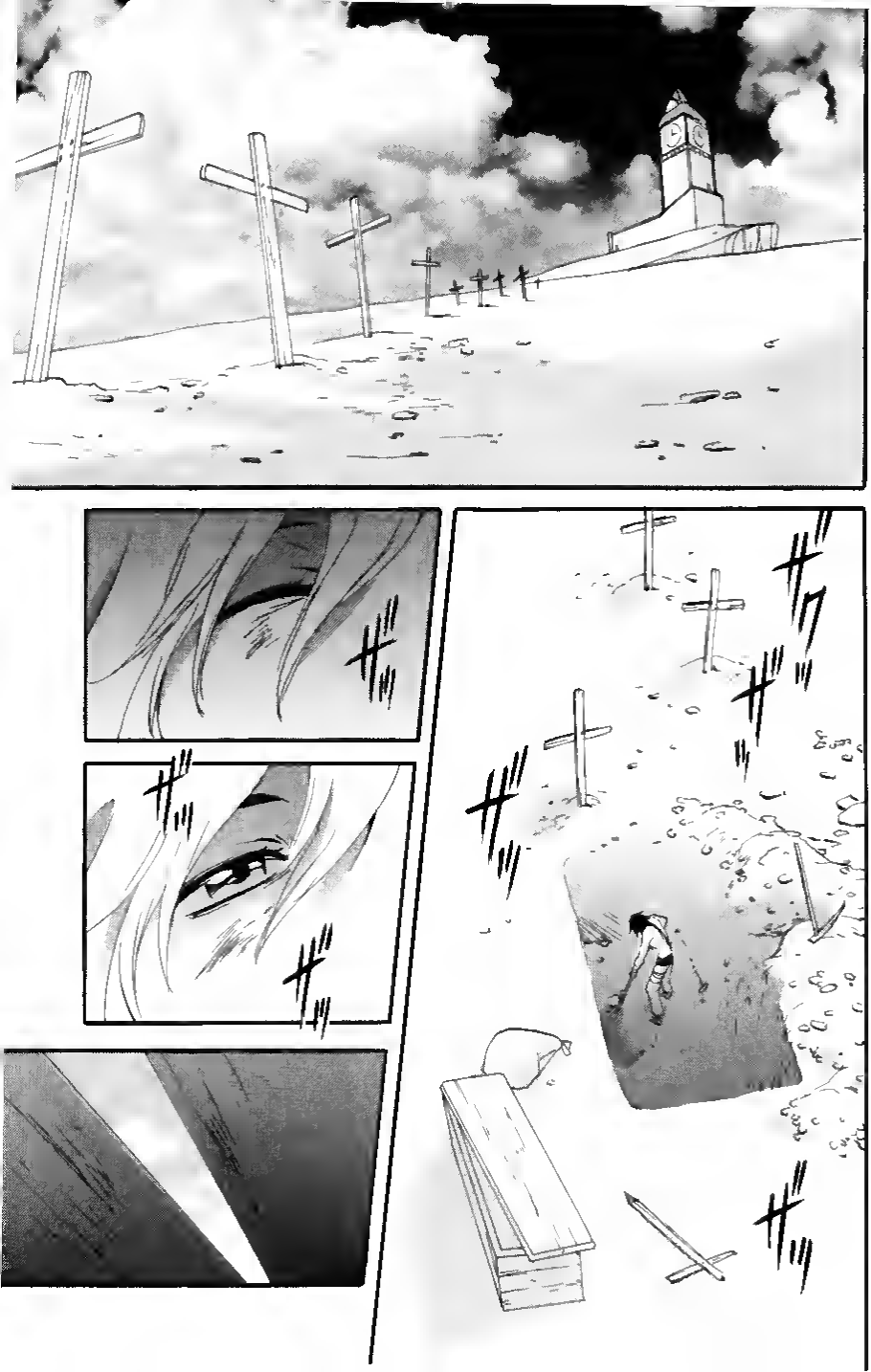
ゴ〜ン!

ゴ〜ン
ゴ〜ン



EXCUSE ME...
HAH
HAH
DID I JUST DIE?

YOU'RE...

東方死神
メテオ・ストライク!!

YOU...
SURE DO HAVE A HEALTHY APPETITE...
もっきゅ
もっきゅ

I GUESS I GOT LUCKY THIS TIME.
OH... HAHA!
SORRY YOU HAD TO GO THROUGH ALL THE TROUBLE OF MAKING A GRAVE FOR ME.
...AREN'T YOU SUPPOSED TO BE DEAD?
OH. WELL, I HADN'T EATEN AT ALL BEFORE I COLLAPSED!
MISS! CAN I GET ANOTHER HELPING?
UHH...
...MR. PRIEST.
YOU SEEM TO BE GETTING IN ON YOUR YEARS.
I'M ONLY 24 YEARS OLD AND A LONG WAYS FROM SPROUTING ANY GRAY HAIR
I'VE NEVER SEEN A YOUNG MAN SO CLUMSY ON HIS FEET.
YOU SHOULD BE EMBARRASSED.

WHAT'S WITH THAT FACE?
THIS LINE OF WORK IS VERY COMMON-PLACE THESE DAYS.
WEREN'T THERE TIMES WHEN YOU HUNTED BOUNTIES TOO?
I get so nervous when I see a cop even though I haven't done anything
NO WAY!! NOTHING LIKE THAT AT ALL!
I'M AN HONEST, LAW-ABIDING CITIZEN!!
ARE YOU THE UNDER-TAKER IN THIS TOWN, ZOL?
Y-YES... I SHOULD BE...
A PRIEST?
I'M AN ASSASSIN.
ビク
PLOP
OH!
I'LL TAKE CARE OF THINGS FOR YOU, SO GO AHEAD AND SEE HIM.
KONA.
ZOL'S HERE.

HERE YOU GO.
OH, NO!
YOU'RE HURT AGAIN! YOUR LEG'S COMPLETELY SOAKED IN BLOOD!
DON'T WORRY ABOUT IT.
DID YOU SEE A DOCTOR YET?!
HERE, LET ME TAKE A LOOK—
IT'S UNUSUAL TO SEE YOU WITH SOMEONE ELSE, ZOL.
IS HE A FRIEND OF YOURS?
PLEASE. WITH THIS BUM?

I'M TELLING YOU NOT TO TOUCH ME!!

UM...
UHHH...
DON'T LET IT BOTHER YOU.
HE'S ALWAYS LIKE THIS.
PLEASE, ENJOY THE REST OF YOUR MEAL.
MAN, YOU SHOULD LIGHTEN UP~
YOU'RE GOING TO BE A FATHER SOON.
IT'S NOT MY KID!!
THAT GIRL WAS SOLD HERE FROM THE NORTHERN COUNTRYSIDE.

THAT CHILD WILL ONLY KNOW THE LIFE OF A SLAVE IF IT'S BORN INTO THIS WORLD.
I DON'T QUITE UNDER-STAND HER.
WHAT COULD SHE POSSIBLY BE THINKING, WANTING TO GIVE BIRTH TO THAT CHILD?
SHE WAS TRICKED MANY TIMES OVER.
SHE WAS FORTUNATE ENOUGH TO ESCAPE THE BROTHEL, BUT SHE BECAME PREGNANT WITH A CLIENT'S CHILD.
ガシャ
KONA!
WHAT ARE YOU DOING AWAY FROM YOUR STATION?!
.....

YOU BROKE OUR MOST EXPENSIVE PLATE!
ビッ

EXCUSE ME~
カツ!!

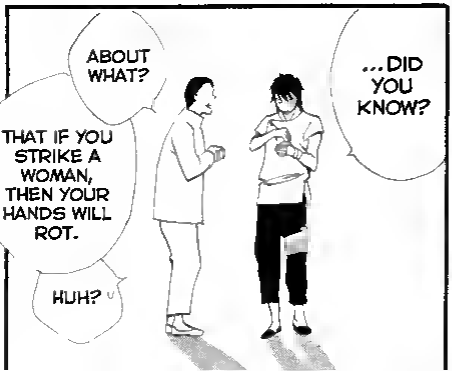
H—
HEY...

I'M GOING TO BE COMPLETELY HONEST WITH YOU.
WHAT IS IT?
W-W-WH—
I DON'T HAVE A SINGLE PENNY ON ME.
I'M JUST FREE-LOADING OFF OF YOU.
...HUH?

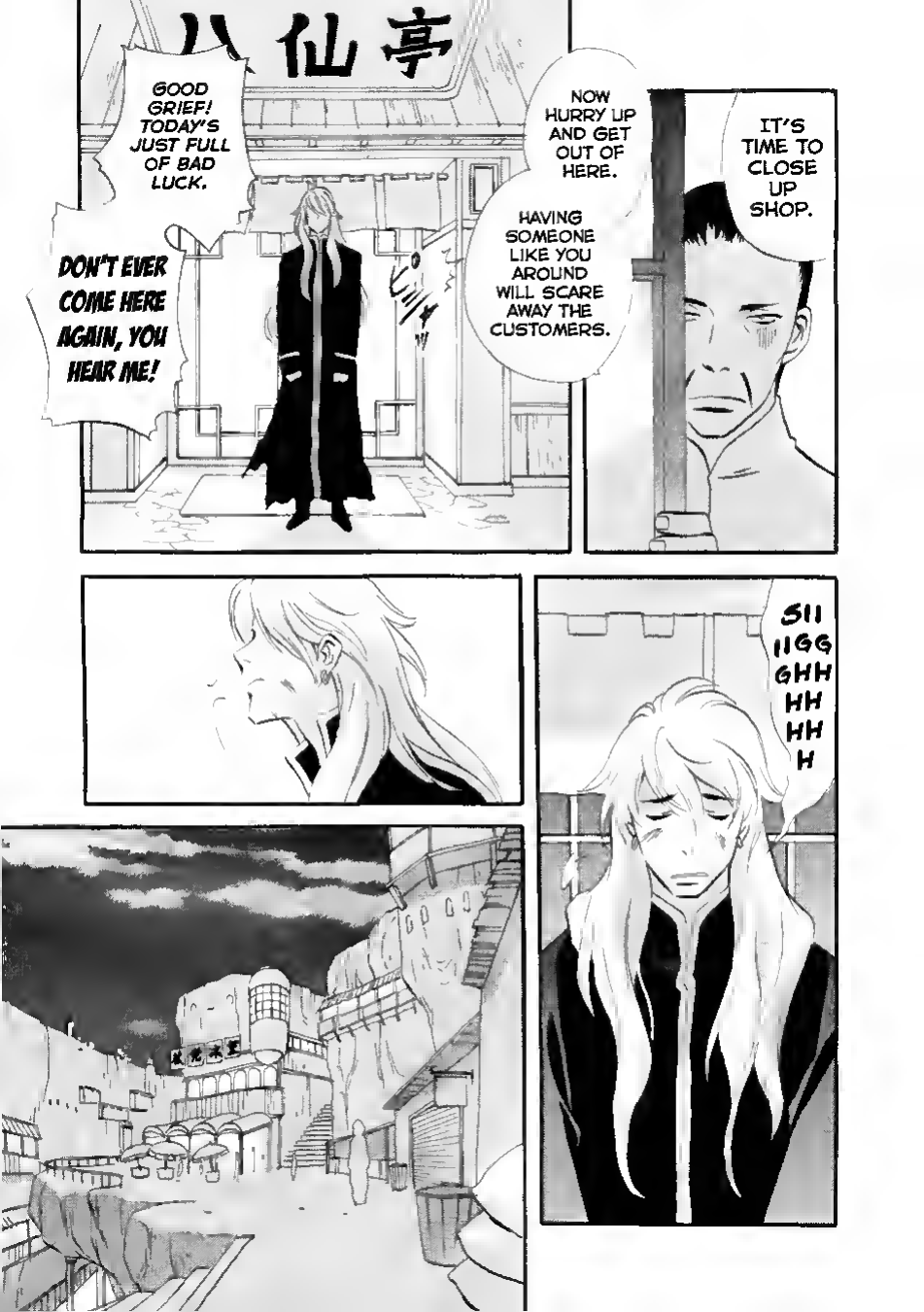
YOU'RE NOT GOING HOME UNTIL YOU WORK OFF YOUR BILL!
Yessir
DON'T EAT LIKE A COW IF YOU CAN'T EVEN PAY FOR IT IN THE FIRST PLACE!
OH, DEAR...
I'M SO SORRY THAT YOU HAD TO GET INVOLVED IN ALL OF THIS...
THE BABY'S DUE SOON, RIGHT?
YOU MUST BE EXCITED.
Y-YES, I AM.
YOUR BELLY SURE IS BIG NOW.

YOU SHOULD TAKE IT EASY, KONA.
I'LL HANDLE THINGS HERE.

EXCUSE ME, SIR...
YOU *WILL* BE PAYING YOUR BILL, RIGHT?


...DID YOU KNOW?
ABOUT WHAT?
THAT IF YOU STRIKE A WOMAN, THEN YOUR HANDS WILL ROT.
HUH?

WHEN THAT HAPPENS, I'LL BE THERE TO CHOP OFF YOUR ARMS FOR YOU.
BUT DON'T WORRY.


八仙亭
GOOD GRIEF! TODAY'S JUST FULL OF BAD LUCK.
DON'T EVER COME HERE AGAIN, YOU HEAR ME!
NOW HURRY UP AND GET OUT OF HERE.
HAVING SOMEONE LIKE YOU AROUND WILL SCARE AWAY THE CUSTOMERS.
IT'S TIME TO CLOSE UP SHOP.
SIIIIGGGHHHHHH

IS THIS WHAT YOU'RE LOOKING FOR?
HEY.

YES, YES, THAT'S IT! THANK YOU SO MUCH!!
THANK GOODNESS! I THOUGHT I'D LOST IT!
OH..
OH..
OHH HHH ~~!!
Y-YES.
IS THAT A VIOLIN?
CAN YOU PLAY IT?
I'M SO RELIEVED.
ER... KIND OF.
I'M NOT ALL THAT GREAT AT IT, THOUGH.
PLAY IT FOR ME.

A-ALRIGHTY, THEN.
B-BUT...
YOU'LL PROBABLY REGRET IT AFTER-WARD.
HERE GOES NOTHING.

バタン
バタン
バタン
ギリギリ
ボタボタ
……
ボタ…
ゴゴゴ
AND HERE I THOUGHT IT WAS A VIOLIN. WHO KNEW IT'S ACTUALLY USED TO CALL FORTH RAIN?
バッ
シャア

A JOKE, YOU SAY?
I'VE NEVER SEEN SOMEONE TELL A JOKE WITH SUCH A SERIOUS FACE.
HEY! DON'T GO SULKING OFF. I WAS JUST JOKING.
BYE-BYE, NOW...
WELL, WELL.
SO YOU CAN SMILE.
YOU WERE REALLY TERRIBLE!

UP UNTIL NOW,
THAT GIRL'S NEVER HAD ANYBODY WHO WORRIED ABOUT HER.
I GIVE YOU MY THANKS.

HEY.
TAKE A LOOK AT THAT GUY.
OH! THAT'S THE GUY WHO GOT HIT BY A TRUCK EARLIER TODAY.
WHAT'S GOING ON HERE?

THAT'S "METHUSELAH" ...
...THE IMMORTAL BOUNTY HEAD.
I-I KNOW HIM.
MY GREAT-GREAT GRAND-FATHER'S SEEN HIM BEFORE.

ゴオオオオ
はあ、

...?
WHAT'S GOING ON?
ドンドン
ZOL, ARE YOU HOME?!
WE'VE GOT TROUBLE !!
THE ONE AND ONLY IMMORTAL METHU-SELAH...
...HAS COME TO THIS VERY CITY!!

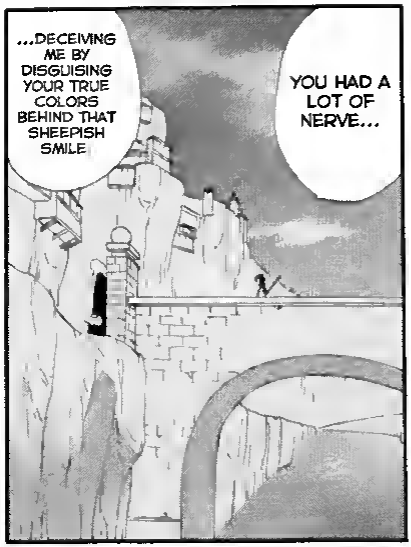
THERE'S NO BOUNTY HUNTER THAT DOESN'T KNOW METHUSELAH'S NAME!
HOW CAN YOU BE SO IGNORANT?!
ME--
METHUSELAH WHO?
...IS THE WORLD'S MOST WANTED MAN!!
METHUSELAH...

PEOPLE HAVE BEEN SAYING THAT A MAN WHO WAS SUPPOSED TO BE DEAD AFTER GETTING HIT BY A TRUCK ON LONG JIN STREET THIS MORNING HAS BEEN WANDERING AROUND THE CITY
THERE'S A LEGEND AMONG BOUNTY HUNTERS ABOUT AN IMMORTAL BOUNTY HEAD NAMED METHUSELAH WHO'S LIVED FOR 600 YEARS.
A BUNCH OF GUYS WHO TOOK THE RUMORS SERIOUSLY FOUND A MAN WHO FIT THAT DESCRIPTION.
GUNS AND KNIVES REALLY DIDN'T WORK ON HIM AND THOSE GUYS ENDED UP GETTING THEIR BUTTS KICKED.

I THOUGHT METHUSELAH WAS JUST A MYTH, BUT...
THE BOUNTY HUNTERS IN THIS CITY ARE PURSUING HIS TRAIL OF BLOOD AT THIS VERY MOMENT.
ZOL...

IF YOU GET HIS HEAD,
THEN YOU MIGHT BE ABLE TO REALIZE YOUR DREAM!

THERE'S NO POINT IN HIDING.


...DECEIVING ME BY DISGUISING YOUR TRUE COLORS BEHIND THAT SHEEPISH SMILE
YOU HAD A LOT OF NERVE...

I-I DIDN'T MEAN TO.
WELL, I PROBABLY *DID* GO A LITTLE TOO FAR WHEN I SAID I WAS JUST 24 YEARS OLD...
THAT'S ENOUGH, YOU SCOUNDREL!

YOU CAN'T COVER UP THE SCENT OF BLOOD.

SHOW YOUR FACE. I WILL FIGHT YOU...
...FOR YOUR HEAD!

THERE HE IS! THAT'S THE GUY!
HURRY!!
ZOL'S GOT HIM!!
!
ドカ

WHA...

HAH
HAH
ガ

ギギ…
ドカッ

!?
ガ!!!

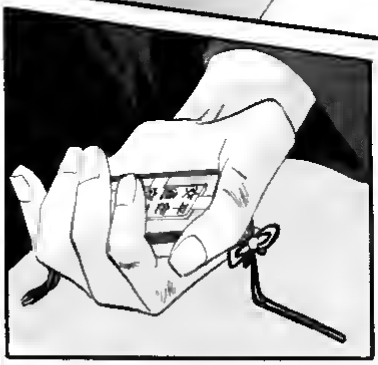
DAMN IT!!
I JUST KEEP RUNNING INTO BAD LUCK TODAY.
THIS...
THIS SUCKS.
Huh.
Huh.
Huh.
FIRST, I GOT RUN OVER BY A TRUCK. AFTER THAT, I WAS FORCED INTO FREE LABOR. THEN I GOT A BUCKETFUL OF WATER DUMPED ONTO ME.
AND NOW I'VE GOT THAT DOBERMAN OF A MAN ON MY TAIL.
He's scary.

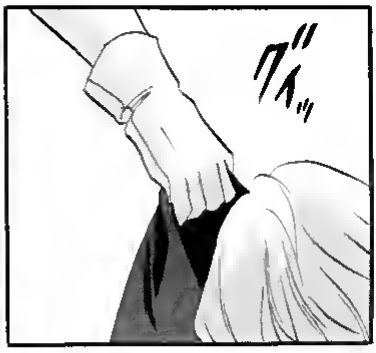
I'VE HAD ENOUGH.
I'M SO SICK AND TIRED OF THIS...
カラン
THIS HAPPENS EVERY TIME.
ズボ
MAN...
チリン

平安一路
交通安全
祝福
HAHA...
THIS THING ISN'T BRINGING ME ANY LUCK AT ALL...
YOU DAMN DOBERMAN...
ズル...

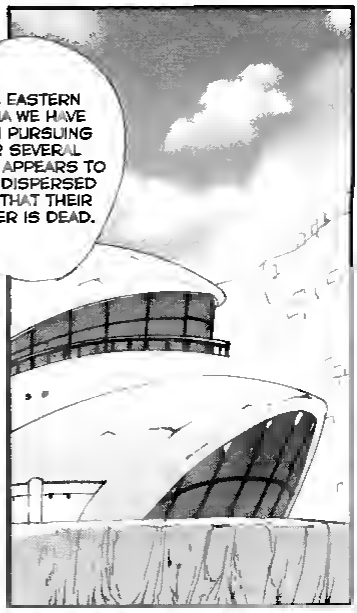
I...
HAVE TO LIVE...
FOR 14 MORE YEARS...

ズルズルズル…

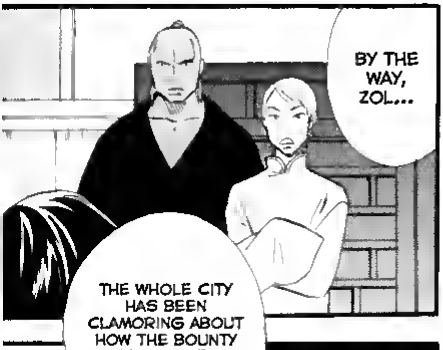



ガッ

THE REMNANTS ARE IN HIDING, BUT THE CORE OF THEIR ORGANIZATION HAS COLLAPSED.


THE EASTERN MAFIA WE HAVE BEEN PURSUING FOR SEVERAL YEARS APPEARS TO HAVE DISPERSED NOW THAT THEIR LEADER IS DEAD.

I WILL BE GIVING YOU ANOTHER COVERT MISSION SOON.
MY SUBORDINATES ARE NOW HUNTING DOWN THE REMNANTS.
BE PREPARED FOR IT.
YES, SIR.


BY THE WAY, ZOL...

THE WHOLE CITY HAS BEEN CLAMORING ABOUT HOW THE BOUNTY HEAD NAMED METHUSELAH IS HERE IN THE CITY.
DO YOU KNOW ANYTHING ABOUT THIS?

WELL DONE...
...ZOL BALFALTIN.

A MERE MYTH ABOUT AN IMMORTAL YOUNG MAN...
...THAT HAS BEEN EMBELLISHED EACH TIME IT HAS PASSED ON.
THEY'RE ALL JUST RUMORS.
N-NO. I DON'T.
HOW MUCH LONGER MUST I CONTINUE DOING THIS?
...MASTER FUSA.
HOW MUCH MORE MONEY MUST I EARN?
HOW MUCH LONGER MUST I KILL?

FOR GIVING YOU ALL THE FILTHY WORK,
AND FOR MAKING YOU CARRY SUCH A HEAVY BURDEN.
I MUST APOLOGIZE TO YOU.
HOLD YOUR TONGUE IN THE PRESENCE OF THE MAYOR.
ZOL...
BUT I AM THE ONE WHO SHOULD BE BEARING ALL OF YOUR SINS.
PLEASE FORGIVE ME FOR NOT BEING ABLE TO DO ANYTHING IN THIS AILING BODY.
I WOULD SHOULDER EVEN THE HEAVIEST BURDEN FOR YOU IF THAT WAS WHAT YOU WISHED, MASTER.
N-NO. IT'S NOTHING OF THAT SORT.
ZOL...
I KNOW THAT YOU'RE ALWAYS BLAMING YOURSELF FROM THE VERY BOTTOM OF YOUR HEART.
ゴッ

IT WON'T BE MUCH LONGER, ZOL.
八仙亭
PLEASE BEAR WITH IT...
FOR JUST A LITTLE WHILE LONGER.

.....
カチカチ
カチカチ
ZOL DIDN'T COME TODAY, HUH?
OH.
Y-YEAH.
カチカチ
WHAAAAT ?!
DAMN IT!
HEY, ITSUKI! THROW OUT THAT FOOD!
THE CATERING CLIENT JUST CANCELED ON US.
WE'VE BEEN LOSING SO MUCH MONEY SINCE YESTERDAY.

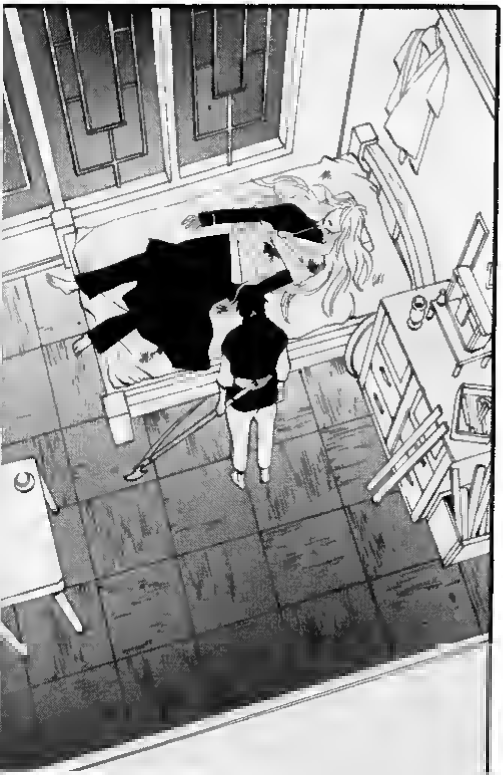
IF YOU REALLY WANT IT, THEN WORK FOR IT.
GET EVERYTHING READY FOR TOMORROW WHILE YOU'RE AT IT.
THIS FOOD'S TOO LAVISH FOR SOMEONE WHO MUNCHES DOWN ON GARBAGE LIKE YOU.
U-UM...
IS IT ALRIGHT IF I TAKE A SMALL PORTION OF THIS?
I'LL DO IT!
B-BUT THAT'S THE SAME FOOD YOU JUST TOLD ME TO THROW OUT!
HUH?
BUT ONLY I'M SUPPOSED TO BE DOING THIS, SO YOU DON'T HAVE TO WORRY ABOUT IT, ITSUKI.
SHEESH!
YOU JUST *HAD* TO SAY THAT AND PILE ON MORE WORK FOR THE BOTH OF US.
This is going to take all night.
I'M HEADING OFF NOW.
BE SURE TO LOCK THE BACKDOOR BEFORE YOU GO HOME!

ANYWAY...
YOU BETTER SHARE IT WITH ME AFTER WE'RE DONE.
IT'S NOT FAIR IF YOU GET TO HOG ALL OF THAT FOOD TO YOURSELF.
I MEAN, HE'S GOT THE LOOKS, BUT...
HE'S NO ORDINARY YAKUZA, YOU KNOW.
JUST WHAT DO YOU SEE IN A GUY LIKE ZOL?
EVEN MAFIA MEMBERS GO RUNNING WITH THEIR TAILS BETWEEN THEIR LEGS WHEN THEY HEAR HIS NAME.
THEY SAY HE'S FUSA'S LAPDOG, A COLD-BLOODED AND MERCILESS ASSASSIN THEY CALL THE GRIM REAPER.

BUT HE HAS A GENTLE SIDE TO HIM.

"METHUSELAH"
...
THE WORLD'S LARGEST BOUNTY...

JUST A LITTLE BIT MORE...
IF I HAVE THE MONEY, THEN...



HEY.
ぐぉぉっ
ぐぉぉっ
ACK...
IT'S ALREADY MORNING.
GET UP.
ゴゴゴ
WHAT?!
HUH?!
HUH?!
EH?!

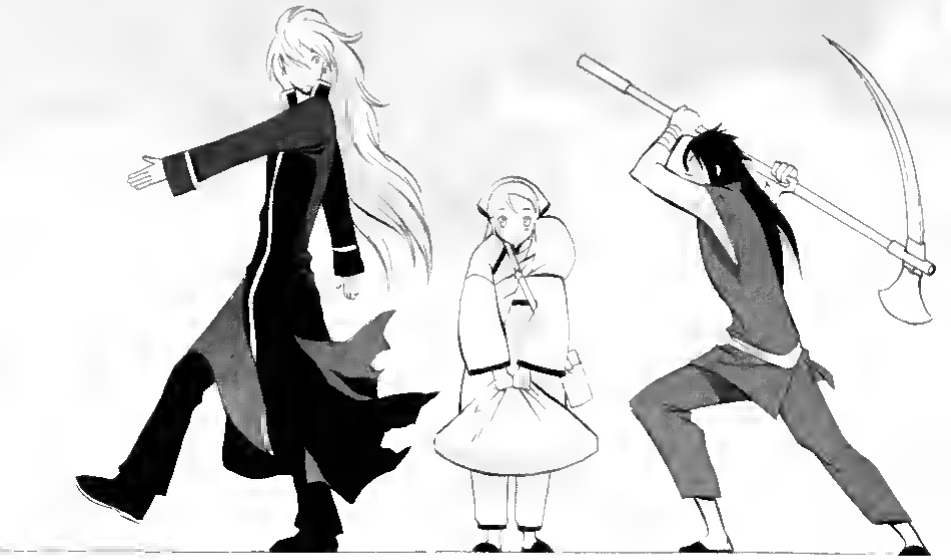
WHEN YOU'RE DONE EATING, BRUSH YOUR TEETH.
HUH?
UH...
UM...
I CAN'T STAND PEOPLE WHO LIVE IN SUCH SQUALOR!
RINSE YOUR FACE AND THEN TAKE A BATH!
AND WASH YOUR CLOTHES TOO!

I CHALLENGE YOU TO A DUEL.
GOOD! NOW, THEN.
I-I'M ALL DONE.

HUUUUUH?!
WHAT?
DON'T GIVE ME THAT!
WHAT THE HECK ARE YOU DOING?
.....
ONE MINUTE YOU'RE HELPING ME AND THE NEXT YOU'RE TRYING TO FIGHT ME.
IF YOU WANTED MY HEAD THAT MUCH, THEN YOU COULD'VE JUST DONE ME IN WHILE I WAS OUT COLD.
YOU WERE CRYING IN YOUR SLEEP.

HA...
YEAH, RIGHT ...
I'M NOT LYING.
DURING THE TIME YOU SLEPT,
YOU REPEAT-EDLY...
...CALLED OUT SOMEONE'S NAME.
YOU KEPT MUTTER-ING...
"YUCA" ...
SHUT UP!!
.....
NO...
I'M SORRY ABOUT THAT. BUT...
IT'S NOT NICE TO EAVESDROP WHEN SOMEONE'S TALKING IN HIS SLEEP, YOU KNOW.
SILENT
I DIDN'T HEAR IT BECAUSE I WANTED TO.
I WASN'T ABLE TO SLEEP AT ALL BECAUSE OF YOU.

I SIMPLY WANTED TO FIGHT WITH YOU IN A FAIR MATCH.
TAKE UP YOUR WEAPON.
I UNDERSTAND THAT YOUR HEAD HAS THE WORLD'S LARGEST BOUNTY ON IT.
NO THANKS.
.....
I WON'T SHOW YOU ANYMDRE MERCY!!
THIS TIME, I WILL TAKE YOUR HEAD AND SEND YOU TO YOUR GRAVE WITHOUT FAIL!!
ARE YOU RIDICULING ME?!
DAMN, YOU!



K-KDNA !!
W-WHAT ARE YOU DOING HERE?!
WELL, YOU SEE...
THERE WAS A LOT OF LEFT-OVER FOOD AT THE RESTAURANT SO I BROUGHT SOME.

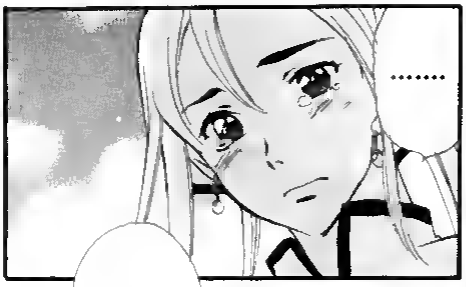
METHUSELAH!!
C-C-CRAAABS!!
YOU SHOULD GO HOME!
NOW RUN ALONG—
ZOL, YOU LOVE THESE, RIGHT?
Y-YOU SHOULDN'T BE HERE!
FATHER, ARE YOU STAYING AT ZOL'S HOME?
I SURE AM~
BUT THIS GUY HERE WAS MUMBLING SOME WOMAN'S NAME IN HIS SLEEP ALL NIGHT LONG SO I COULDN'T GET ANY SHUT-EYE AT ALL.
Please have some of this
.....

I'M HAPPY FOR YOU.
YOU TWO SEEM LIKE SUCH GOOD FRIENDS ALREADY.
IF SOMETHING HAPPENED TO YOU, THEN I WOULDN'T KNOW.
I'M TELLING YOU, THIS MAN IS NOT MY FRIEND!
AND YOU SHOULDN'T BE WALKING AROUND OUT AND ABOUT IN THAT CONDITION EITHER.
I'LL BE FINE.
HERE, TRY FEELING IT—
THE BABY'S KICKING SO MUCH!
STOP THAT!!

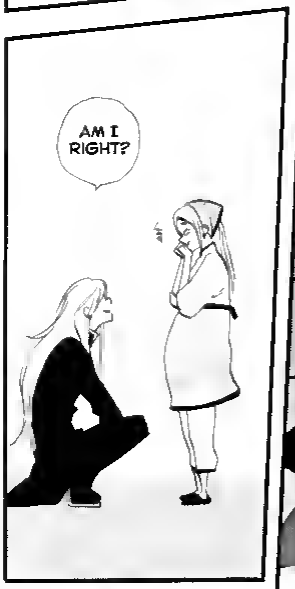
N—
NO!!
THAT'S COM-PLETELY WRONG!!
IS IT BECAUSE OF MY DIRTY PAST?
WHY DO YOU PUSH ME AWAY SO MUCH?
.....
.....
This atmosphere is awful...
IT'S JUST THAT WHEN I LOOK AT YOU...
I GET SO UPSET!
BEING TRADED LIKE MER-CHANDISE...
QUIETLY PUTTING UP WITH THE VERBAL AND PHYSICAL ABUSE...
HOW CAN YOU BE SO SPINELESS?!

JUST HOW ELSE AM I SUPPOSED TO LIVE?!
THERE'S NOTHING I CAN DO ABOUT IT, IS THERE?!
YOU'RE CARRYING THE CHILD OF SOME STRANGER...
DOES ...
DOES IT NOT BOTHER YOU?
THAT'S JUST THE WAY THINGS ARE...
YOU...
SHOULDN'T HAVE TO LIVE LIKE THIS...
I'LL NEVER BE ABLE TO AMOUNT TO ANYTHING IN MY LIFE!
SO AT THE VERY LEAST, I'D LIKE SEE THIS PREGNANCY THROUGH!
I HAVE NO HOME TO RETURN TO!
TELL ME!!

YOU...!!
BUT I'M WILLING TO SACRIFICE ANYTHING TO RAISE THIS CHILD!!
I'M SORRY THAT YOU SEE ME AS SO SPINE-LESS!!
EVEN SOMEONE LIKE ME CAN HAVE A FAMILY!
HAVE IT YOUR WAY, THEN!!


.....

"MAMA,
PLEASE DON'T CRY."
"IF YOU CRY,


AM I RIGHT?

THEN ALL OF THE WATER INSIDE YOU WILL TURN SALTY TOO."

I EVEN TRIED THROWING MYSELF INTO THE RIVER TO END IT ALL.
I HAD A VERY DIFFICULT TIME WHEN I WAS COMING TO THIS CITY.
YOU KNOW ...
BUT THEN,
HE CAME ALONG.
HE CARRIED ME ON HIS BACK
AND FERRIED ME TO SHORE AGAINST THOSE RAGING RAPIDS.
HE THOUGHT I WAS TRYING TO CROSS THE RIVER.
IT'S A FUNNY STORY.

I FELT A LITTLE FOOLISH.
AFTER SEEING THAT MAN PUSHING THROUGH THE VERY SAME RIVER IN WHICH I THOUGHT I WOULD DIE,
I DIDN'T EVEN HAVE TIME TO THANK HIM.
HE TOOK OFF ALL SOAKING WET RIGHT AFTER THAT.
MY CHILD AND I...
...ARE ALIVE RIGHT NOW BECAUSE OF HIM.
YOU REALLY LOVE HIM, DON'T YOU?

SOMEHOW...
...FATHER.
THEY SAY...
...THAT MAN IS AS POWERFUL AS A GRIM REAPER.
I FIND THAT SO SAD.
BUT...

キ…
キ～！…
YOU'RE NOT GOING ANYWHERE UNTIL WE FINISH OUR MATCH.
YOU CAN LEAVE AS YOU WISH AFTER YOU'VE DEFEATED ME.
ズドッ

.....
WHAT ARE YOU WORKING ON THERE?
.....
.....
THIS...
...IS A CRIB.

YOU'LL REALLY REGRET NOT DOING SO...
...WHEN SHE'S GONE AND IT'S TOO LATE.
.....
WHY...
...DON'T YOU BE MORE KIND TO HER?
I...
...THINK OF THAT GIRL AS MY OWN DAUGHTER.
...THAT'S RIGHT.
YOU MIGHT END UP MUTTERING IN YOUR SLEEP TOO.
.....
YOU SPEAK AS IF FROM EXPERIENCE.

...
I DON'T KNOW.
D-DAUGHTER?!
JUST HOW OLD ARE YOU?!
IF SHE TOUCHES SOMEONE LIKE ME, THEN SHE'LL BECOME TAINTED.
...AND LIVE COMFORTABLY WITHOUT ANY WORRIES!
WOMEN...
...SHOULD JUST BE ABLE TO GOSSIP ABOUT GOOD FOOD AND PRETTY CLOTHES, GATHER FLOWERS...
I'LL GIVE YOU A HAND WITH THAT.
WHAT DID YOU SAY?!
YOU'RE A REAL LONE WOLF, HUH?

D-DRAW?
IT'S NOT LIKE I DON'T LIKE TO, BUT I DON'T THINK I'M VERY GOOD AT IT.
CAN YOU DRAW?
.....
DRAW FLOWERS ON HERE.
THEN I'LL CARVE IT OUT.
T-That's a pretty big task.
MAYOR.
WE'VE CONFIRMED THE WHEREABOUTS OF THREE REMNANTS.

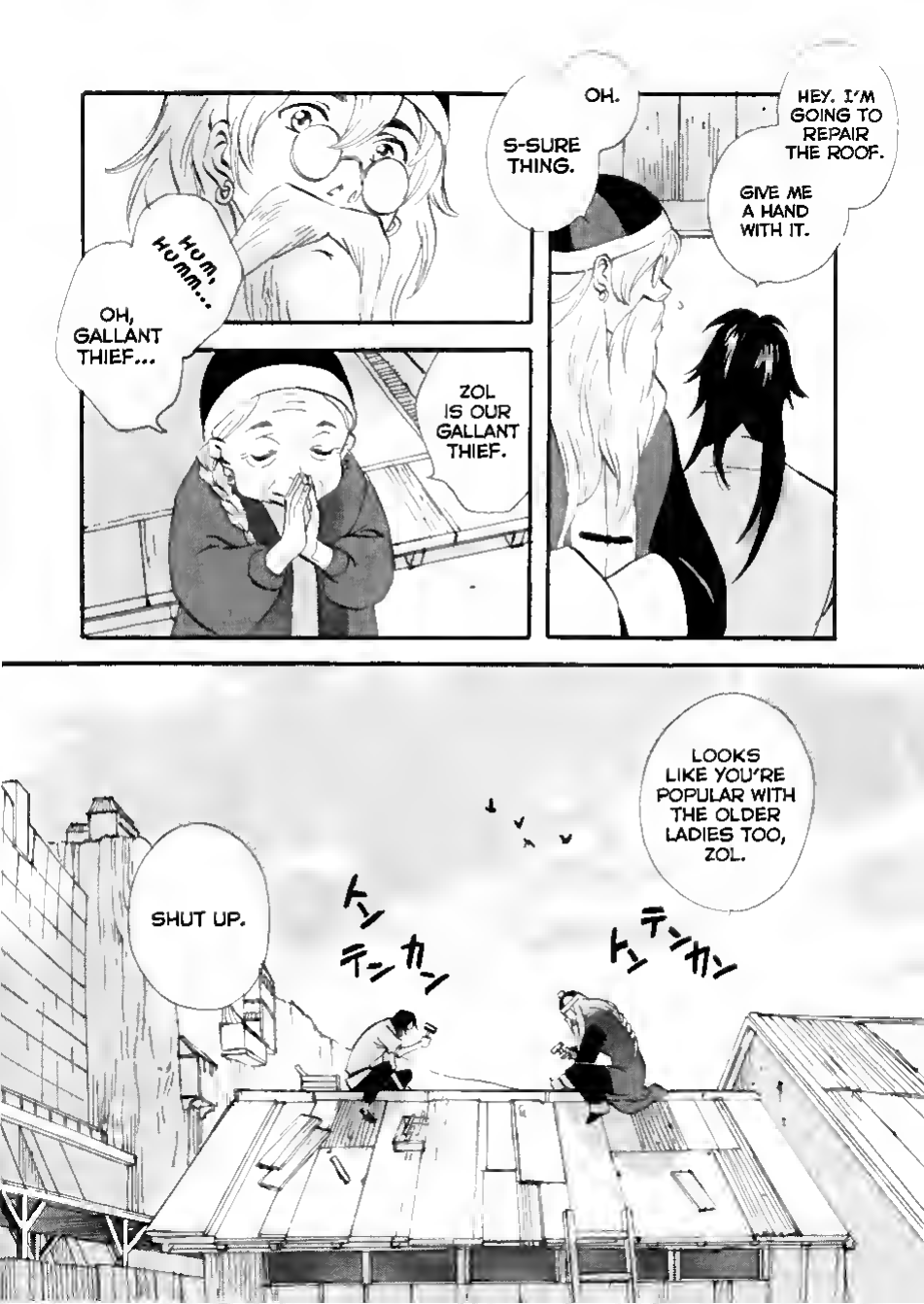
WILL HE BE OF ANY USE?
HIS LEG IS INJURED.
GOOD.
SEND OUT ZOL.
I'VE PASSED DOWN ALL OF MY MERCENARY SKILLS TO HIM.
THAT MAN IS NOT YOUR AVERAGE ASSASSIN.
HE WOULD WILLINGLY LAY DOWN HIS LIFE TO ACHIEVE HIS GOALS AND HIS RESOLVE IS EXCEPTIONAL.
...NOR FEAR,
...NOR SYMPATHY.
ONCE HE ASSUMES THE IDENTITY OF THE GRIM REAPER, HE DOES NOT FEEL ANY PAIN...

HE KIDNAPS CHILDREN AND THEN EATS THEM!
HEY, ZOL...
IT'S THE CIRCUS! IT'S THE CIRCUS!
NUH-UH! THAT'S SANTA!
BUT IT'S DRAWING KIDS TO ME LIKE ANTS TO A PICNIC BASKET.
IT'S ALL IN YOUR HEAD.
SO WEI AH WEE GO NAO?*
SHUT UP.
DON'T MAKE A FUSS AND JUST WEAR IT.
I DON'T WANT ANYONE ELSE TAKING YOUR HEAD BEFORE WE SETTLE OUR MATCH.
THIS DISGUISE IS COMPLETELY RIDICULOUS.

*NOTE: *SO WHERE ARE WE GOING NOW?* METHUSELAH'S USING A CHINESE ACCENT.

THE SLUMS...
GRANNY!
ドンドン
GRANNY, ARE YOU HOME?
ニャーニャー
MEOW~

ZOL, MY DEAR...
HERE ARE VEGETABLES AND BLACK TEA. AND THIS IS OINTMENT FOR YOUR LEGS.
THIS ISN'T FOOD. BE CAREFUL NOT TO CONFUSE IT WITH THE OTHERS.
I APOLOGIZE FOR NOT COMING YESTERDAY.
THEY SAY THE NEW KING OF MY HOMELAND WILL BE ARRIVING HERE SOON.
EVERY-ONE IS PREPARING FOR THE FESTIVAL.
HMM, PERHAPS THEY WILL.
I DO HOPE THEY PERFORM THE LION DANCE.
I SEE YOUR LEAKING ROOF STILL NEEDS MENDING.
WELL...
WILL THE KING PASS BY HERE, I WONDER?
WILL I BE ABLE TO CATCH A GLIMPSE OF HIS FACE?
WE'LL HAVE TO WAIT AND SEE.


HEY. I'M GOING TO REPAIR THE ROOF.
GIVE ME A HAND WITH IT.
OH.
S-SURE THING.
HUM, HUMM...
OH, GALLANT THIEF...
ZOL IS OUR GALLANT THIEF.
LOOKS LIKE YOU'RE POPULAR WITH THE OLDER LADIES TOO, ZOL.
SHUT UP.
トン テンカン
トン テンカン

I WAS DELEGATED THE RESPONSIBILITY OF CARING FOR THE ELDERLY HERE IN THE SLUMS.
THEY'RE GHOSTS OF THE PAST, SOLD INTO A LIFE OF SLAVERY DURING A WAR LONG SINCE OVER.
I'M DOING THIS UNDER MY MASTER'S ORDERS.
YOU'RE VERY COMPASSIONATE.
OVER THERE...
THEY'RE NOT PERMITTED TO LIVE ON THE SAME SOIL AS US,
AND SO THEY LIVE IN THESE SHACKS BUILT ON WATER.
THEY HAVE NO HOME TO RETURN TO.
THOUGH THEIR NATIVE LAND MAY BE RESTORED AND A NEW KING INAUGURATED,

...YOU CAN ALSO SEE KONA'S HOUSE.
WHERE'S THE CIRCUS?
.....
IF YOU DON'T HURRY, I'LL LEAVE YOU BEHIND.

So high!
So high!
Me next!
Me next!
...
Whee
Whee
MISTER,
ME TOO.

WE HAVE A MESSAGE FOR YOU.
ZOL.
Y-YOU MUSTN'T.
YOU MUSTN'T TOUCH ME.
たじ
?

*NOTE: PROBABLY MEANS "NIGHT CAT" IN CHINESE, BUT CAN'T CONFIRM BECAUSE MANGAKA DIDN'T WRITE OUT THE KANJI CHARACTERS.

ダン!!
スポッ!!

ZOL!
ZOL, WAIT!
WHAT ARE YOU—

AH...
AH...
W-WHY...

HANG IN THERE...!
UNH...
UGH...
ボタ
ボタ

THESE MEN WERE SLAVE TRADERS, CRIMINALS WITH BOUNTIES ON THEIR HEADS.
—!!!
SO YOU'RE TELLING ME THAT'S WHY YOU KILLED THEM IN COLD BLOOD?!
DON'T YOU FEEL ANYTHING?!
DON'T YOU?!
...NO, I DON'T.

THAT'S A LIE!
IF...
MY MASTER ORDERS IT...
THEN I DO NOT FEEL ANY-THING...
THAT...
WAS HOW I WAS TRAINED.
THAT'S A LIE, ZOL.
CAN YOU REALLY...
SAY THE SAME THING IN FRONT OF KONA?!

ゴー
ガー
HOW DARE YOU, YOU DAMN HYPOCRITE!
IF YOU'RE GOING TO PREACH TO ME, THEN HAND OVER YOUR HEAD!
YOU ARE A CRIMINAL!
ガニャ

YOU CAN'T DIE FROM STARVATION NOR DO YOU GROW OLD. YOU'RE A MONSTER.
HOW DARE YOU LECTURE ME WITH YOUR SUGAR-COATED WORDS!
...YES, I REMEMBER NOW. YOU ARE NOT HUMAN.
WHAT DO YOU KNOW?!
WHAT CAN YOU POSSIBLY UNDER-STAND?!

ZOL!
KONA... WHAT'S WRONG?
I TOLD YOU NOT TO COME TO MY HOME—
Don't run

IT'S A TRIVIAL MATTER, BUT...
AH...
WELL...
U-UM!
I...
WHA...
THE NORTH KINGDOM'S KING WILL BE VISITING SOON.
I HAVE TO LEAVE THE CITY SOON.
IT APPEARS THAT...

Z-ZOL...
MASTER FUSA... MASTER FUSA WOULD NEVER ALLOW THAT TO HAPPEN!
WHAT WILL HAPPEN TO THE RESIDENTS?!
THE SLUMS WILL LEAVE A BAD IMPRESSION OF THE CITY WHEN THE KING ARRIVES, SO IT WILL BE DESTROYED.
THAT'S ABSURD!
HERE.
I MADE A COIN CHARM.
I MADE IT TO PROTECT YOU FROM HARM BECAUSE YOU'RE ALWAYS GETTING HURT.
WILL YOU ACCEPT IT?

.....
ZOL...
I...
I CAN'T BEAR IT.
I CAN'T BEAR THE THOUGHT OF NOT BEING ABLE TO SEE YOU.
THE REST OF HIS LIFE?!
THE REST OF HIS LIFE?!
VERY WELL, THEN. I WILL CARRY IT FOR THE REST OF MY LIFE.
ズボ
E—
ZOL!
WAIT HERE!
EVERYTHING WILL BE ALRIGHT! I WON'T ALLOW THEM TO DRIVE YOU OUT!

YOU CAN'T POSSIBLY BE PLANNING TO DEMOLISH THE SLUMS!
WHAT HAVE WE BEEN FIGHTING FOR ALL THIS TIME, THEN?!
.....
MASTER FUSA!
WHAT IS THE MEANING OF THIS?

IT SEEMS THAT THE GOVERNMENT PAID OFF THE SLUMS' LAND-OWNERS.
THEY'LL BE "CLEANING" UP THE SLUMS IN PREPARATION FOR THE KING'S WELCOMING FESTIVAL.
MASTER FUSA COULDN'T HAVE POSSIBLY BEEN RESPONSIBLE FOR THAT DECISION.
CALM YOURSELF, ZOL.

TO DESTROY AN ENTIRE DISTRICT JUST TO KEEP UP APPEARANCE IN FRONT OF THE KING IS ABSURD!
THAT'S ABSURD!

THE RESI-DENTS WILL JUST GET SOLD TO ANOTHER CITY!
WE MUST EXPLAIN THIS TO THE KING!

.....
WHAT OF THE MONEY I'VE COLLECTED ...?
MASTER FUSA,
YOU HAVE ALWAYS TOLD ME...
THAT I ONLY NEEDED A LITTLE BIT MORE MONEY...
THAT IF I EARNED ENOUGH BY SUPPRESSING THE SLAVE TRADERS,
THEN I WOULD BE ABLE TO BUY THE SLAVES' FREEDOM...
AND THAT THEY WOULD BE LIBERATED AND BE ABLE TO LIVE ON OUR SOIL!
THAT WAS OUR AGREEMENT!

F-FATHER! WHAT'S GOING ON?!
.....
DOES THIS MEAN THAT...
.....
WHAT'S GOING ON?
ALL THIS TIME...
ZOL HAS BEEN STAINING HIS HANDS FOR OUR SAKE?!
KONA...
.....

BUT THEY ARE PLACING AN INSURMOUNTABLE PRICE ON THE SLAVES' FREEDOM.
MY SUBORDINATES ARE IN THE PROCESS OF TRYING TO PERSUADE THE LANDOWNERS.
WE DO NOT HAVE ENOUGH MONEY TO HELP ALL OF THEM.
PLEASE TIE ME UP.
I'M SORRY, ZOL.
IT SEEMS THAT...
WE WERE NOT ABLE TO MAKE IT IN TIME.

NO...
THEN,
WHAT HAVE I BEEN FIGHTING FOR ALL THIS TIME?

.....
PLEASE LET ME GOOOO!
PLEASE DON'T HURT MEEEE!
ゴロゴロゴロ
EEEEEKKK~~ SAVE MEEEE~~
I'M THE BOUNTY HEAD, METHUSELAH~~
I WAS CAPTURED BY MR ZOL HERE~~
ZOL.
W-WHAT ARE YOU—
WHO IS THAT MAN?
THE IMMORTAL BOUNTY HEAO?!
IT CAN'T BE!
METHU-SELAH?!
DID HE JUST SAY METHUSE-LAH?!

IF THAT MAN IS TRULY THE REAL THING,
SNIFFLE SNIFFLE
THEN YOU WOULD BE ABLE TO BUY NOT JUST THE SLUMS, BUT AN ENTIRE COUNTRY.
METHU-SELAH?
YOU MUST BE JOKING, ZOL.
I UNDERSTAND YOUR DESIRE TO HELP THOSE PEOPLE, BUT TO TRY AND DECEIVE ME WITH SUCH A SHAM...
.....
I KNOW YOU...
...AS A MAN WHO WOULD NEVER LIE TO ME.
ZOL.

W-WHAT?
IF YOU'RE SAYING THAT MAN IS TRULY METHUSELAH,
THAT'S A GOOD IDEA.
IF WE FIND THAT YOU'RE LYING TO US, THEN YOU'LL BE PUNISHED ACCORDINGLY.
KILLING PEOPLE IS YOUR SKILL OF TRADE, IS IT NOT?
OH? IS THERE A PROBLEM WITH THAT?
THEN SHOW ME BY STABBING HIM WITH YOUR SWORD.

WE'RE GOING TO SAVE KONA.
GO AHEAD, ZOL.

OHH!
WHAT IS THIS?
WELL, THIS IS JUST WONDER-FUL.
HEH HEH.
THIS MAN IS UNDOUBTEDLY IMMORTAL.
PLEASE TAKE A GOOD LOOK BEFORE YOU.
AS YOU CAN SEE,

NO! A NEW COUNTRY!
HEH HEH... DEMOLISH? FAR FROM IT. WITH THIS, WE'LL BE ABLE TO CREATE A NEW CITY.
TH-THEN THIS WILL STOP THE DEMOLITION OF THE SLUMS?!
WELL DONE, ZOL.
ABSO-LUTELY...
...WELL DONE.

WHAT...
WHAT ARE YOU DOING?
...ZOL.
UP UNTIL THIS POINT, YOU HAVE SERVED ME MAGNIFICENTLY.
THE SLUMS WILL STILL BE DEMOLISHED.
WE CAN'T VERY WELL LET THE NORTH'S KING KNOW THAT HIS PEOPLE ARE STILL BEING TRADED AS SLAVES, YOU SEE.
IT IS MAYOR FUSA'S DUTY TO MAKE THIS "WELCOMING PARTY" A SUCCESS.
THAT CAN'T HAPPEN IF YOU GO BLABBING TO THE KING.
THANKS TO YOUR EFFORTS, THE SLAVE TRADING ORGANIZATIONS IN THIS TERRITORY HAVE BEEN ERADICATED.

WITH THE EXCEPTION OF US, OF COURSE.
AND BECAUSE YOU CARED FOR THE ELDERLY IN THE SLUMS, THEY NEVER TRIED TO REBEL AGAINST ME.
YOU'VE ELIMINATED ALL OF OUR COMPETITION.
ON TOP OF ALL OF THAT,
YOU BROUGHT ME *THE* METHUSELAH.

YOU'RE LYING.
YOU'RE ...
TELL ME THAT ISN'T TRUE, MASTER.
I...
HAVE NOBODY ELSE BUT YOU...
BUT IN REGARDS TO THE FESTIVAL,
YOUR STRENGTH AND THE SLAVES' FAITH IN YOU ARE CONSIDERED TO BE TREASONOUS AND DANGEROUS TO THE GOVERNMENT.
I WAS INCREDIBLY LUCKY TO HAVE PICKED UP SOMEONE LIKE YOU.
YOU HAVE SUCH A PURE SOUL...
...AND THE EXTRAORDINARY SKILLS TO KILL LIKE A GRIM REAPER.

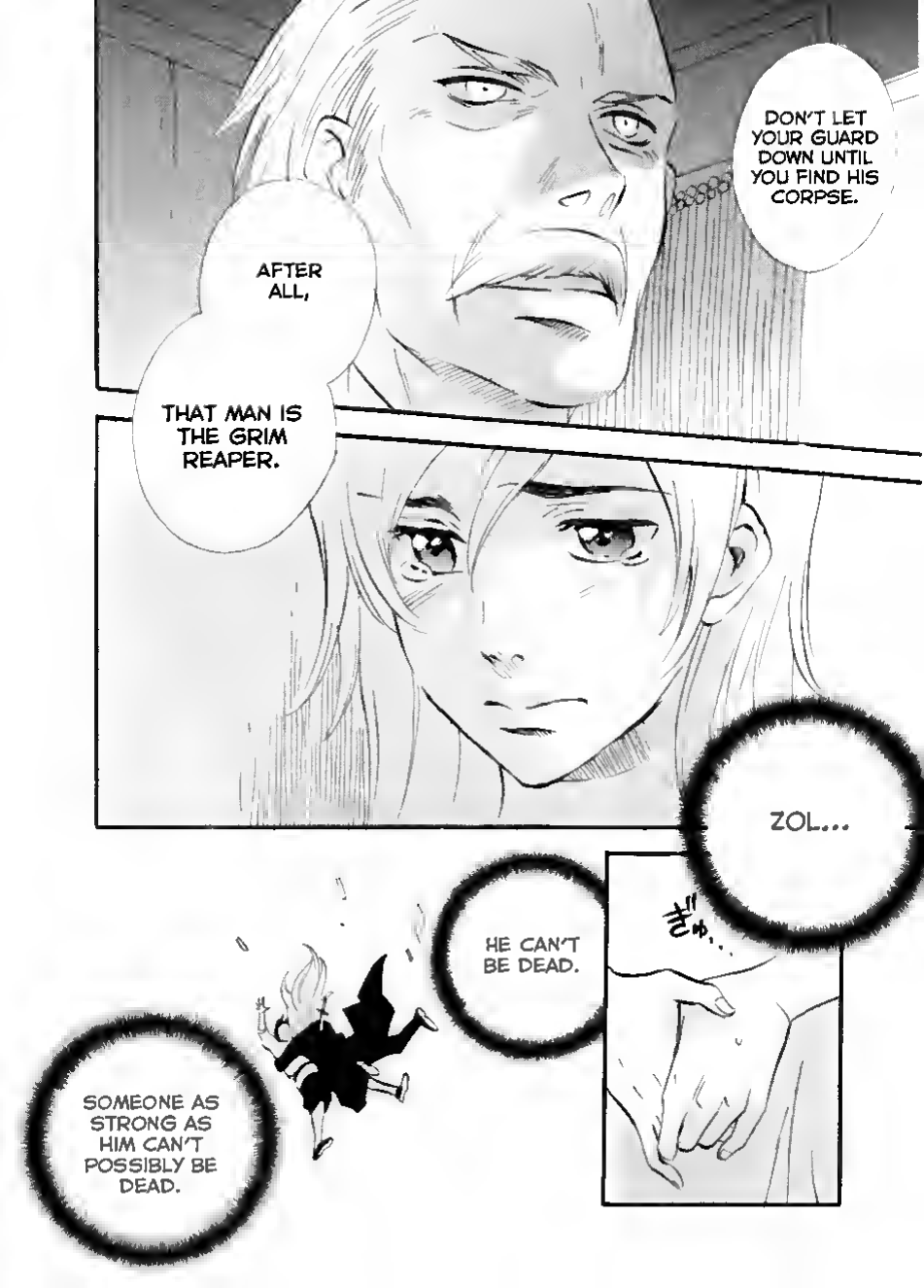
I MUST GET RID OF YOU...
...ALONG WITH THE SLUMS.
!!
HAHA!
YOU CAN'T DO ANYTHING WHEN FACED WITH A GUN, CAN YOU?
DIE!

DON'T LET THEM GET AWAY! FIRE!
ガシャ

MA—
MASTER!!!

AS YOU HAVE BEEN EARLIER INFORMED,
THE SLUMS ARE TO BE DEMOLISHED BEFORE THE FESTIVAL.
THOSE WHO DO NOT LEAVE BY THE ARRANGED DATE WILL BE EVICTED.
THIS IS CLEARLY OPPRESSION!
NO WAY IN HELL ARE WE GOING TO LEAVE!
WE'VE ALLOWED YOU SQUATTERS TO LIVE HERE WITHOUT ANY SORT OF COMPENSATION THUS FAR.
YOU'RE A DISGRACE TO THE CITY.
BUT THIS IS ALL TOO SUDDEN ...
WE HAVE ELDERS AND CHILDREN HERE WITH US!
WHERE ARE WE SUPPOSED TO LIVE FROM NOW ON?!

APPARENTLY, SOME OF THEM ARE PLANNING ON STAYING.
IT'S GOING TO BE HARD TO CLEAR AWAY THE SLUMS LIKE THIS.
SO THE UPROAR'S STARTED, HUH?
ON ANOTHER NOTE,
I ALREADY HAVE SOMETHING IN MIND ON HOW TO DEAL WITH THEM...
...AND A MAGNIFICENT SHOW IN STORE FOR THE KING.
IT MAKES NO DIFFERENCE IF METHUSELAH IS IN FACT IMMORTAL, BUT ZOL MUST NOT BE ALLOWED TO LIVE.
WE HAVE SEARCH PARTIES ALL THE WAY DOWNSTREAM, BUT THERE'S NO WORD YET.
WE MUST BE ABLE TO WELCOME THE KING WITHOUT ANY PROBLEMS.
HAVE YOU BEEN ABLE TO FIND ZOL AND METHUSELAH YET?


DON'T LET YOUR GUARD DOWN UNTIL YOU FIND HIS CORPSE.
AFTER ALL,
THAT MAN IS THE GRIM REAPER.
ZOL...
HE CAN'T BE DEAD.
SOMEONE AS STRONG AS HIM CAN'T POSSIBLY BE DEAD.

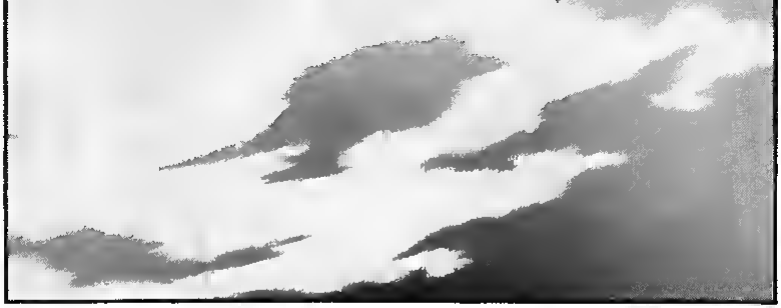
HE'S CARRYING MY CHARM...
ZOL...
FOR CRYING OUT LOUD...
STOP BARGING INTO MY HOME ALL BLOODY IN THE MIDDLE OF THE NIGHT EVERY TIME.
MY HEART'S NOT GOING TO LAST LONG AT THIS RATE.
050
YOUR LEG WAS INJURED, RIGHT?
LET ME TAKE A LOOK AT IT.

NO, IT'S NOT!
Do you have a death wish?
THAT WAS FOUR DAYS AGO.
IT'S ALREADY HEALED.
....
I told you I healed already.
JEEZ, STOP TRYING TO PATCH UP YOUR WOUNDS BY YOURSELF.
Now ulcerations all over.
ANYHOW, I MAY KNOW A LOT ABOUT MEDICINE, BUT I'M STILL JUST A STUDENT, YOU KNOW.
YOU'VE BEEN ON YOUR SUMMER VACATION FOR QUITE AWHILE NOW.
ROWEN.

I JUST LOVE STUDYING ILLNESSES!
LIKE STRANGE DISEASES!
AND MUTATIONS!
THE TRUTH IS,
YOU'RE A PECULIAR FELLOW.
WA!
IF THEY KNEW THAT YOU GOT EXPELLED FROM THE UNIVERSITY THEY PAID FOR
WA!
YOUR PARENTS WOULD BE CRYING
AND THAT YOU WERE LINGERING AROUND HERE WASTING TIME ON SILLY RESEARCH.
WAA!
WA!
I DIDN'T DECIDE TO BECOME A DOCTOR IN ORDER TO HELP PEOPLE.
...MY FATHER DOESN'T KNOW ABOUT THIS, BUT...
YOU WOULD BE DEAD BY NOW.
IF IT WEREN'T FOR THAT MAN PROTECTING YOU, THAT IS.
IT'S A MIRACLE THAT YOU ONLY GOT AWAY WITH SOME BROKEN RIBS AFTER FALLING DOWN THAT RAVINE.
ANYWAY,

HE FRACTURED HIS BONES IN 14 PLACES!
THERE ARE KNIFE WOUNDS ON HIS BACK AND 4 BULLET WOUNDS.
THEY'RE ALL VERY SERIOUS INJURIES.
IT'S AMAZING TO THINK THAT HE'S STILL BREATHING.
...NEVER MIND THAT. JUST TEND TO HIS WOUNDS FOR ME.
TEND TO HIS WOUNDS? NO MATTER HOW YOU LOOK AT IT, IT'S TOO LATE TO HELP HIM.
THAT MAN IS METHUSELAH.
ME —
ME — ?!

LET ME EXAMINE HIM!
I WANT TO LOOK INTO EVERY NOOK AND CRANNY OF THAT BODY!
Hah Hah
THE LOOK IN YOUR EYES IS SCARING ME.
I'VE HEARD THE SHADY RUMORS ABOUT MAYOR FUSA ON THE GRAPEVINE, BUT...
I NEVER WOULD'VE THOUGHT THAT HE WAS INVOLVED IN THE HUMAN TRAFFICKING TRADE HIMSELF.
BY THE WAY, WHAT ARE YOU GOING TO DO FROM NOW ON, ZOL?
IT'S NOT LIKE YOU CAN HIDE OUT HERE FOREVER, YOU KNOW.
THE GOVERNMENT'S PROBABLY IN ON THE WHOLE THING TOO...
THEY WERE JUST USING YOU FOR THEIR OWN MEANS.
WOULDN'T IT BE BETTER FOR YOU TO LEAVE THE CITY NOW?
THEY'D DEFINITELY GET RID OF YOU IF THEY FOUND YOU HERE.



THAT'S IT...
TRY SAYING IT CLEARLY ONE MORE TIME...

YU...
CA... YU...

THE NAME OF THE PERSON WHO MADE YOU IMMORTAL...
TELL ME...

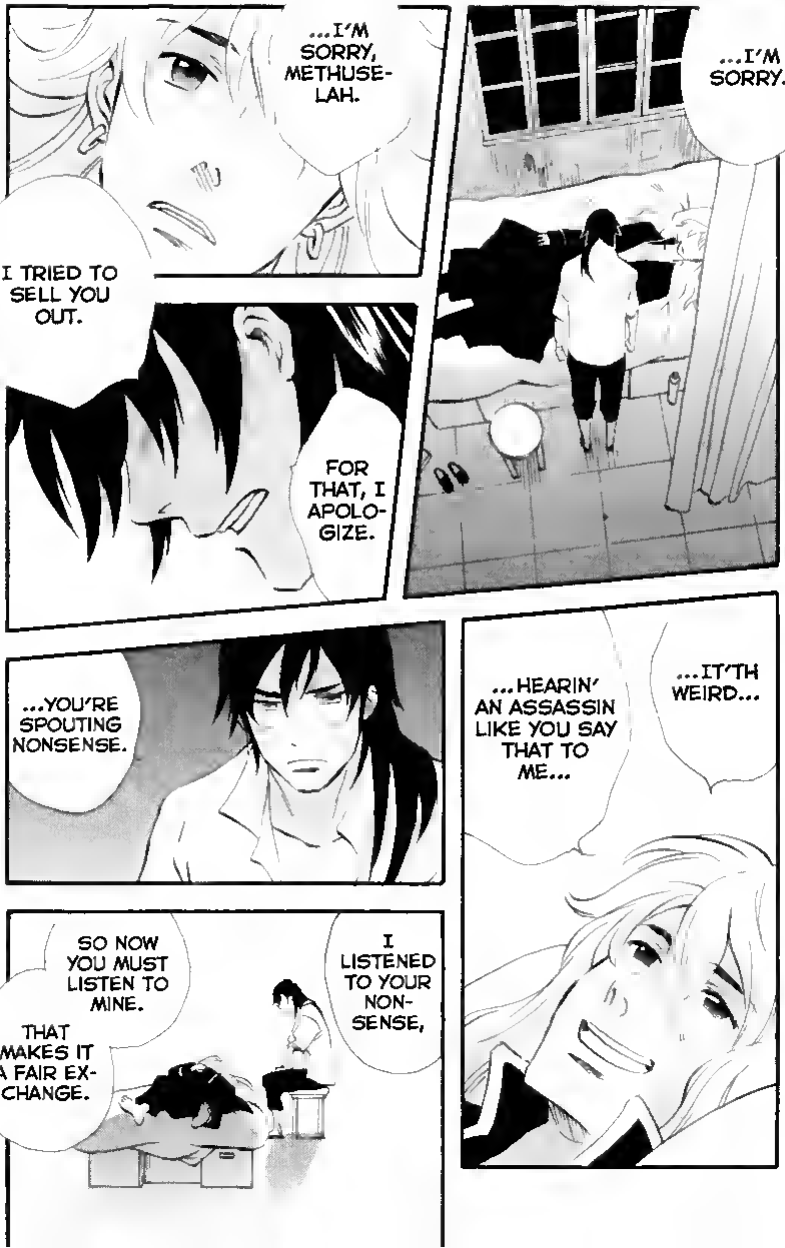
Z-ZOL
...
WHOA!
H-HEY.
WHAT DID YOU DO TO HIM, ROWEN ?!
I TOLD YOU TO TEND TO HIS WOUNDS!
U-UM. WELL...
.....
Drip drip

B-BUT ...
HE DOESN'T EVEN NEED ANY TREATMENT IN THE FIRST PLACE!
~~~
HE'S HEALING ALL ON HIS OWN!
I-I GAVE HIM SOME TRUTH SERUM...
HE CAN'T GROW OLD OR DIE!
IT'S UNBELIEVABLE, I TELL YOU! THIS GUY'S THE REAL THING!
HE REALLY HAS BEEN LIVING FOR 600 YEARS!
THEN I MIGHT BE ABLE CREATE SUPER-HUMANS LIKE THIS!!
SUPER STRONG
KAMA RIPER
DON'T YOU WANT TO KNOW WHAT HAPPENED TO HIM?
THE SECRET TO HIS IMMORTALITY...
IF I CAN FIGURE THAT OUT,
DO YOU KNOW WHAT THIS MEANS, ZOL?!
~~~

B-BUT I LIVE HERE!
046
050
FORGET IT!! GET OUT OF HERE THIS INSTANT, YOU HALF-WIT!!
GOOOOH
WHAT IS THIS?
WHAT...

WHERE IS EVERYONE GOING...?
WHERE...
I WANT TO GO HOME TOO...
I WANT TO GO HOME...

ROL.
WAKE UP.
...NOBODY'S GOING ANY-WHERE.
OOF
WHATH GOIN' ON?
HEH HEH HEH.
AM I DRUNK~?
"ZOL"!
IT'S ZOL.
...ROL.
.....


...I'M SORRY, METHUSELAH.
I TRIED TO SELL YOU OUT.
FOR THAT, I APOLOGIZE.
...I'M SORRY.
...YOU'RE SPOUTING NONSENSE.
...HEARIN' AN ASSASSIN LIKE YOU SAY THAT TO ME...
...IT'TH WEIRD...
I LISTENED TO YOUR NONSENSE,
SO NOW YOU MUST LISTEN TO MINE.
THAT MAKES IT A FAIR EXCHANGE.

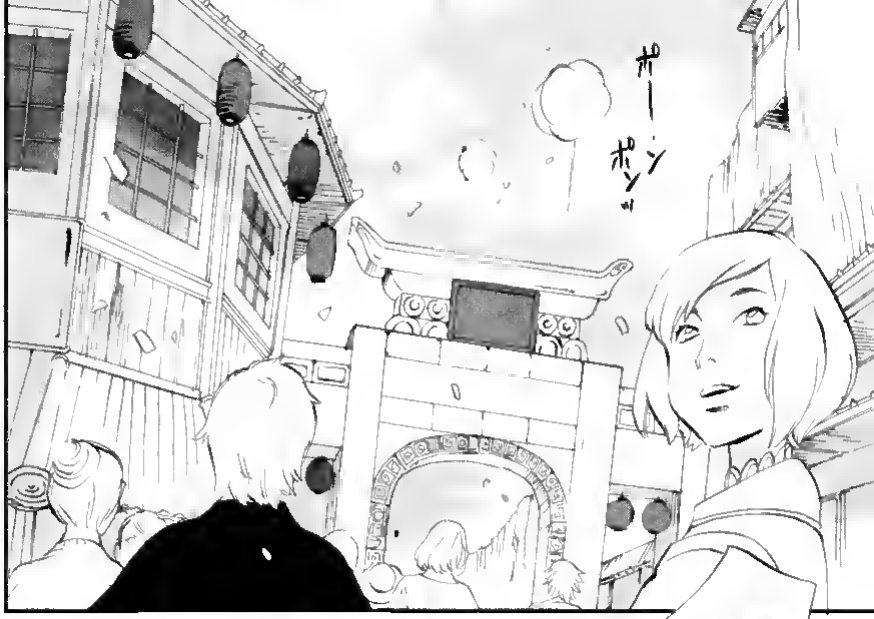
HE GAVE ME THE TASK OF PROTECTING THE SLUMS.
WHEN I HAD NO FAMILY...
...MY MASTER TOOK ME IN AND RAISED ME IN RETURN FOR MY SKILLS.
BEFORE I KNEW IT,
KONA HAD ALSO COME TO THE SLUMS.
"DID SHE GET HIT TODAY?"
"IS SHE CRYING RIGHT NOW?"
I WORRIED ABOUT HER SO MUCH, I COULDN'T STAND IT.
THE TRUTH IS...
I WAS ALWAYS WATCHING HER.

"WHEN THOSE CROSSES...
...REACH THE HORIZON."
I MADE AN ARRANGEMENT WITH MASTER.
IF I EARNED ENOUGH MONEY, THEN I WOULD BE ABLE TO BUY THE SLAVES' FREEDOM.
BUT I CAN'T COUNT MONEY.
WHEN I ASKED MY MASTER HOW MUCH I NEEDED TO EARN, HE TOLD ME THIS:
...HEY, METHUSELAH.
JUST HOW FAR OFF IS THE HORIZON?
HAS MY MASTER BEEN LYING TO ME ALL THIS TIME?

I DON'T WANT TO KILL ANYMORE...
I DON'T WANT TO KILL ...!!
THUD

...HEY.
WHAT'S WRONG? WHAT ARE YOU TRYING TO DO?
Going to the bathroom
I'M GOING TOO...
.....
YOU'RE... GOING TO HELP KONA, RIGHT, ZOL...?
THEN YOU DON'T HAVE TO KILL ANYONE ANY LONGER...
I'LL GO TOO...

WE'RE FRIENDS.
WHY?
.....
BE-CAUSE ...
WHY...
WHY WOULD YOU DO THAT?
WE'RE NOT FRIENDS, I TELL YOU!!
YOU'RE JUST MY PREY!!
I'M COLD
Heh
WE—
.....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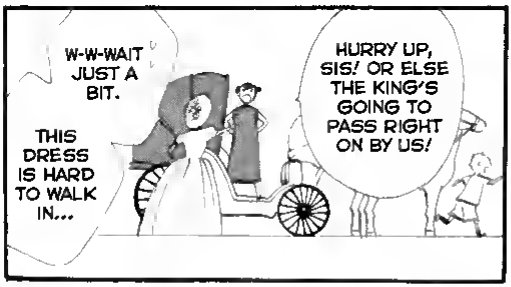
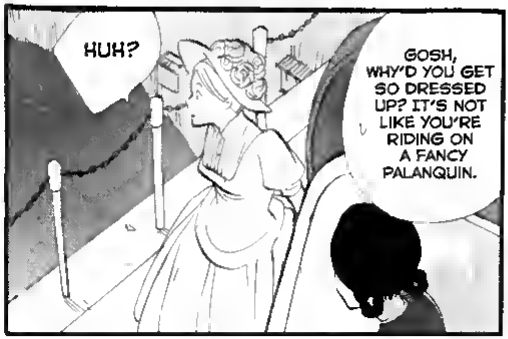
ポン


W-W-WAIT JUST A BIT.
THIS DRESS IS HARD TO WALK IN...
HURRY UP, SIS! OR ELSE THE KING'S GOING TO PASS RIGHT ON BY US!

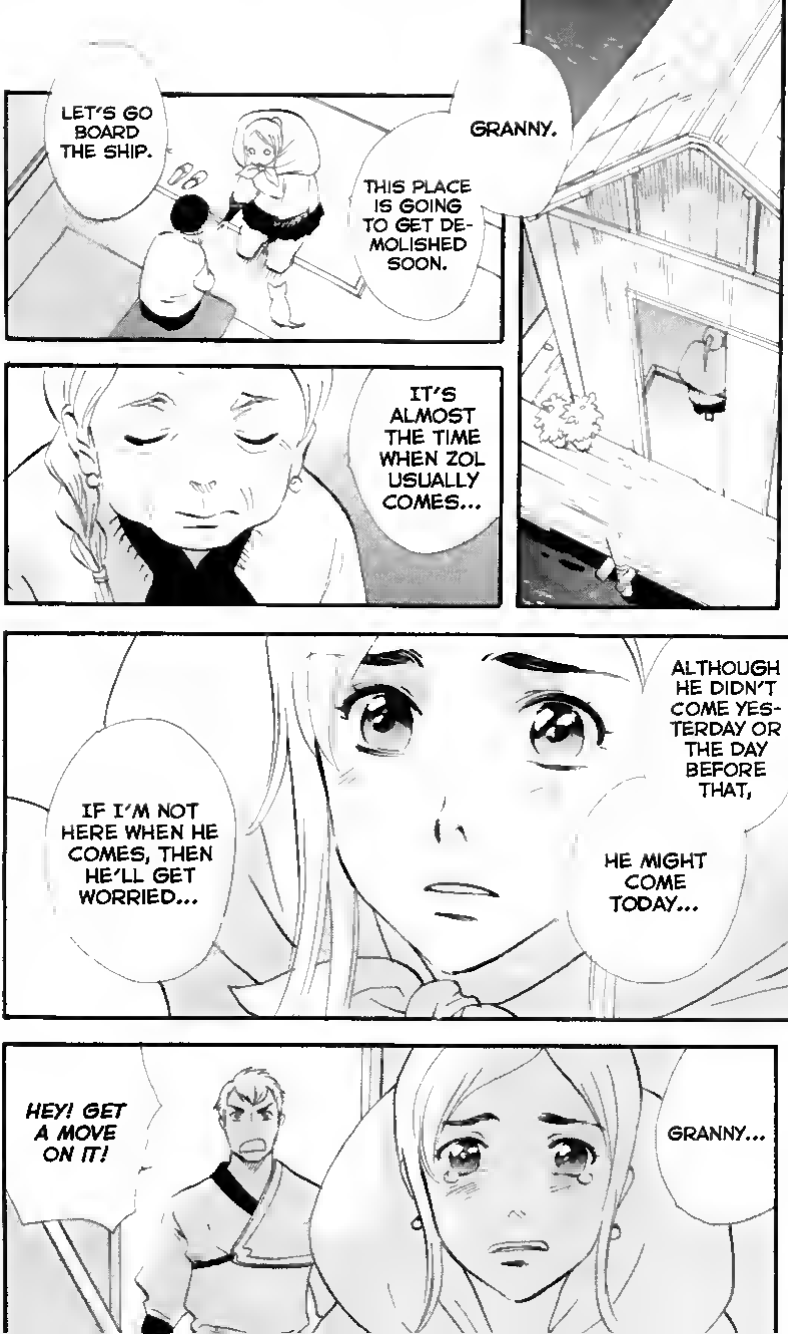

HUH?
GOSH, WHY'D YOU GET SO DRESSED UP? IT'S NOT LIKE YOU'RE RIDING ON A FANCY PALANQUIN.

IT'S THE KING!
ワッ
THE KING'S PARADE IS COMING!!

WHAT'S THAT BIG SHIP?
IT'S A SLAVE SHIP.
THE SLUMS ARE GETTING DEMOLISHED TODAY SO THE SLAVES ARE LEAVING.

THEN WE CAN JUST BUY SOME NEW SERVANTS.
GOOD THINKING, SIS!

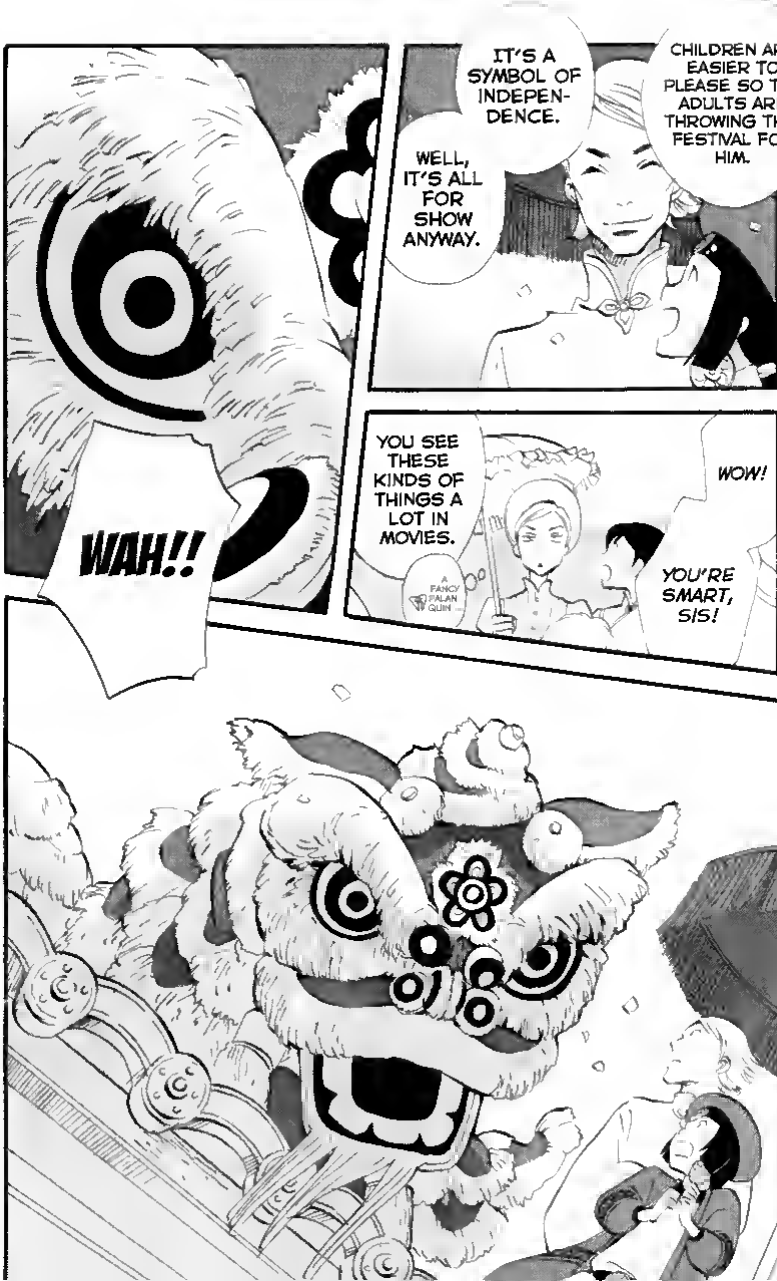
BUT WHAT IF WE DON'T HAVE ANYMORE SERVANTS?
WELL, I'LL FEEL BETTER KNOWING THOSE FILTHY SLUMS WON'T BE AROUND ANYMORE.


LET'S GO BOARD THE SHIP.
GRANNY.
THIS PLACE IS GOING TO GET DE-MOLISHED SOON.
IT'S ALMOST THE TIME WHEN ZOL USUALLY COMES...
ALTHOUGH HE DIDN'T COME YES-TERDAY OR THE DAY BEFORE THAT,
IF I'M NOT HERE WHEN HE COMES, THEN HE'LL GET WORRIED...
HE MIGHT COME TODAY...
HEY! GET A MOVE ON IT!
GRANNY...

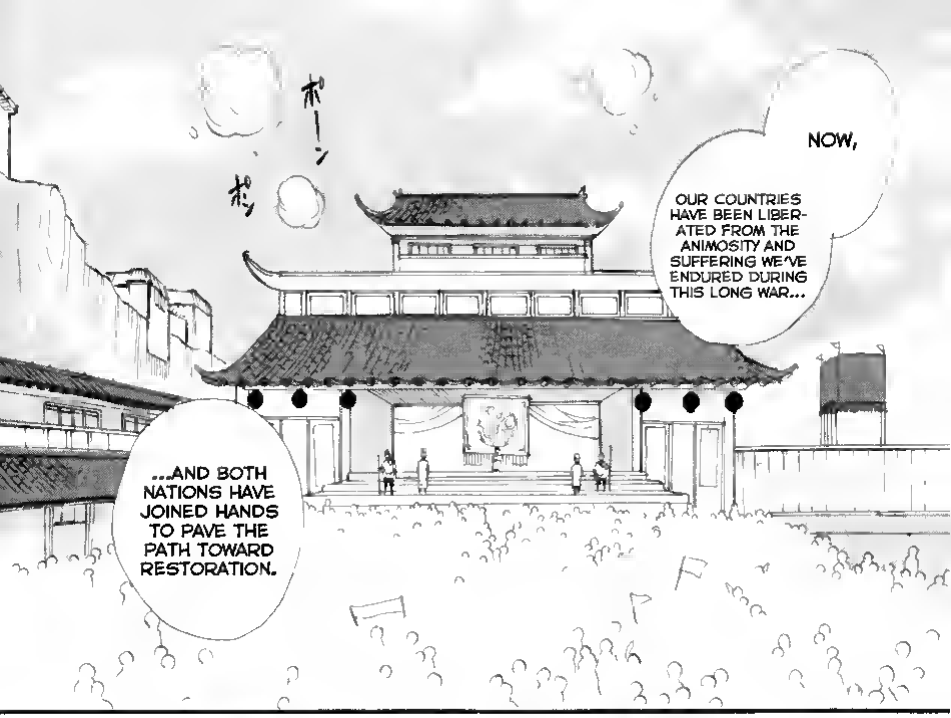
SHE PROBABLY WOULDN'T LAST MUCH LONGER EVEN IF SHE LEFT THIS PLACE ANYWAY.
LEAVE THE OLD WOMAN BEHIND!
AH!
ZOL!!

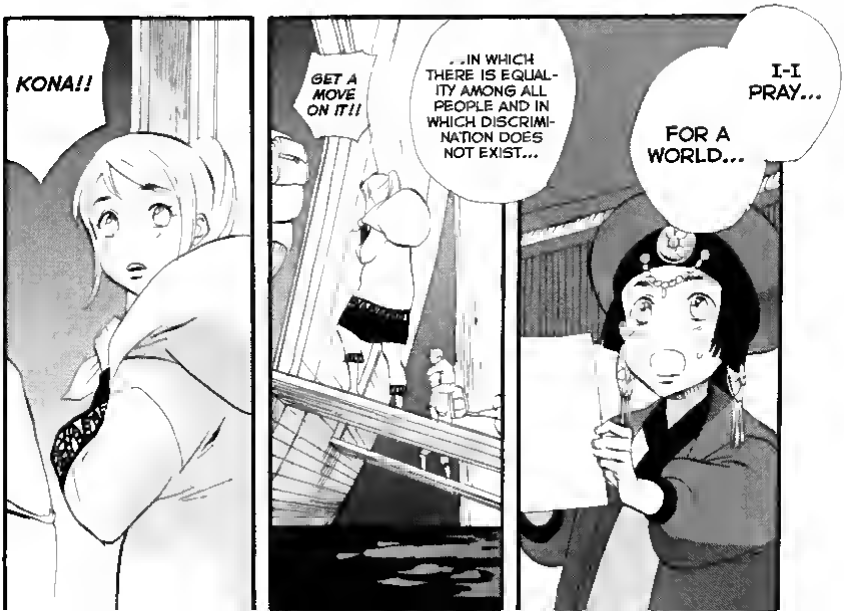
嘻嘻

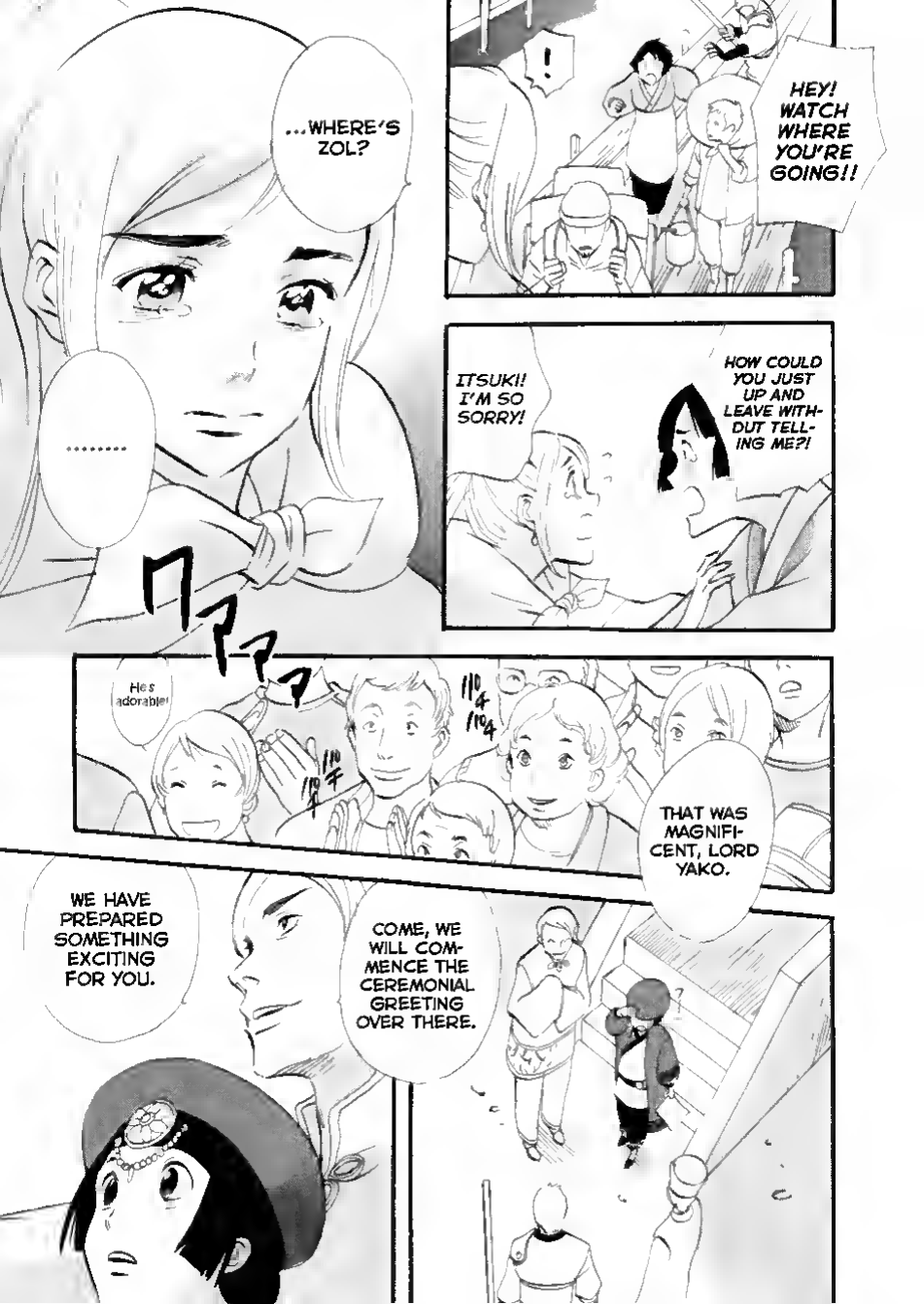
SWITCH PLACES WITH ME!
H-HEY! I CAN'T SEE A THING!
HUUUH?! NO WAY!
HE'S THE KING OF THE NORTH COUNTRY?!
HE'S STILL JUST A KID!
ファファ


CHILDREN ARE EASIER TO PLEASE SO THE ADULTS ARE THROWING THIS FESTIVAL FOR HIM.
IT'S A SYMBOL OF INDEPEN-DENCE.
WELL, IT'S ALL FOR SHOW ANYWAY.
WOW!
YOU SEE THESE KINDS OF THINGS A LOT IN MOVIES.
FANCY FALAN QUIN
YOU'RE SMART, SIS!
WAH!!

HA HA HA!
IT LOOKS LIKE THE LION DANCE HAS STARTED.
.....
IT'S ALRIGHT. THEY WON'T BITE.
ニャン ニャン
EVERYONE'S WELCOMING YOU,
LORD YAKO.


ボーン
ボン
NOW,
OUR COUNTRIES HAVE BEEN LIBERATED FROM THE ANIMOSITY AND SUFFERING WE'VE ENDURED DURING THIS LONG WAR...
...AND BOTH NATIONS HAVE JOINED HANDS TO PAVE THE PATH TOWARD RESTORATION.


KONA!!
GET A MOVE ON IT!!
...IN WHICH THERE IS EQUALITY AMONG ALL PEOPLE AND IN WHICH DISCRIMINATION DOES NOT EXIST...
I-I PRAY...
FOR A WORLD...


...WHERE'S ZOL?
.....
HEY! WATCH WHERE YOU'RE GOING!!
!
ITSUKI! I'M SO SORRY!
HOW COULD YOU JUST UP AND LEAVE WITHDUT TELLING ME?!
He's adorable!
THAT WAS MAGNIFICENT, LORD YAKO.
WE HAVE PREPARED SOMETHING EXCITING FOR YOU.
COME, WE WILL COMMENCE THE CEREMONIAL GREETING OVER THERE.

WOW! WHAT A LARGE IRON BALL!
PLEASE TAKE A LOOK AT THE BOTTOM OF THAT OLD DAM.
AFTER THE DAM WAS PUT OUT OF USE,
THOSE WHO WERE SUBJUGATED BUILT A CITY UPON THOSE STILL WATERS.

WE'D LIKE YOU TO TEAR IT DOWN BY YOUR OWN HANDS.
IT IS A MEMENTO OF THE DREADFUL ERA OF SLAVERY.
BUT WHAT ABOUT THE PEOPLE WHO LIVE THERE?
IT WOULD BE AWFUL IF THEY LOSE THEIR HOMES.
...THAT IRON BALL WILL PLUMMET DOWN...
WHEN YOU CUT THIS RIBBON...
REALLY?!
IT WILL BE MOST EXCITING.
...AND COLLIDE INTO THE DAM WITH A BOOM!!
BUT PUT YOUR FEARS TO REST.
YOUR MAJESTY IS SO COMPASSIONATE.

ワァァァ
NOW, EVERYONE! THIS IS WHAT YOU HAVE ALL BEEN WAITING FOR!
ドンドン
DUE TO YOUR EFFORTS TOWARD PEACE, SLAVERY HAS BECOME A THING OF THE PAST.
NOBODY LIVES IN THAT CITY ANY LONGER.
T-THIS IS NERVE-WRACKING ...

ガバッ!!!
SEIZE HIM!!
WHAT'S HE DOING?!
ビュ!!
ダ!!!

HOLD IT RIGHT THERE!!

MY DEAR GRIM REAPER.
I WAS EXPECTING YOU,
TO TRANSFORM YOU INTO THE PERFECT AND LOYAL ASSASSIN...
...I TAUGHT YOU NOTHING OTHER THAN HOW TO FIGHT.
I KNOW ALL THE TRICKS YOU HAVE UP YOUR SLEEVE.
GUH...
AFTER ALL, I WAS THE ONE WHO TAUGHT YOU ALL OF THOSE SKILLS.
W-WHAT'S GOING ON?!
HE'S JUST A BANDIT. NO NEED TO BE ALARMED.

I NEVER TAUGHT YOU WHAT IT MEANT TO KILL,
NOR THE VALUE OF MONEY,
NOR HOW TO DOUBT OTHER PEOPLE.
ZOL...
YOU CAN'T BETRAY ME.
TELL ME.
WHERE IS METHUSELAH?
YOUR MAJESTY!
PLEASE DON'T DESTROY THE SLUMS!
THERE ARE STILL PEOPLE LIVING THERE!

DON'T DISGRACE YOUR TEACHER ANY FURTHER.
UH
WE ONLY GAVE YOU THE JOB OF PROTECTING THE SLUMS BECAUSE IT WAS CONVENIENT.
WHO KNEW THAT YOU WOULD BECOME SO ABSORBED WITH YOUR WORK?
THIS IS WHY THEY SAY YOU'RE A WORKAHOLIC.
AH!
WHY DON'T YOU JUST SIT BACK AND WATCH AS YOUR PRECIOUS SLUMS BECOME DUST.
ME—

METHUSELAH!!
YOU CALLED?
ゴオオオオオ

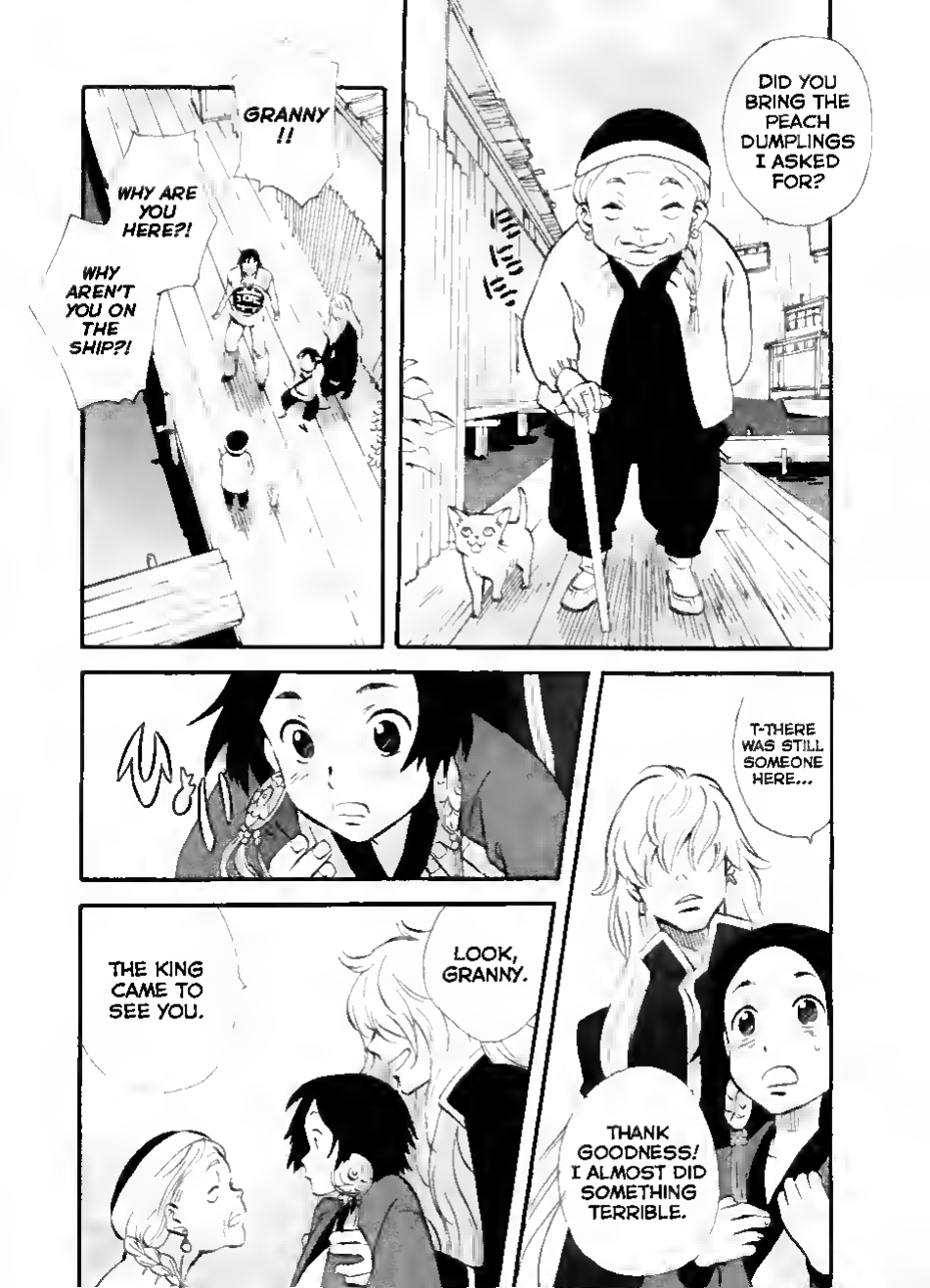
ゴォォ
BULLETS ARE RENDERED USELESS AGAINST MY IMMORTAL BODY!
I AM THE MOST INFAMOUS BOUNTY HEAD WHOSE NAME STRIKES FEAR EVEN IN THE HEARTS OF CHILDREN!
JUMP
AVERT-THE-IRON-BALL!!
SECRET TECHNIQUE!!

.....
UNH...

I'M COMING, ZOL!
ゴオオオオ
I'D RATHER HAVE YOU NOT, YOU NITWIT !!
I'M...
ハアハア
COMING ...
タッ
ドドドドド

WAH!!
ドボーン
.....
THAT...
THAT WENT SUPER WELL !!
NO, IT DIDN'T !!

HOLD IT, ZOL!
なでなで
なでなで
THIS KID'S THE KING, YOU KNOW!
WHAT IF IT BECOMES AN INTERNATIONAL INCIDENT?!
OH...
Sorry, he just snapped out
.....
I'm cold~~ I'm scared~~
YOU'RE A MAN! STOP SNIVELING!
I KNEW YOU'D COME.


GRANNY !!
WHY ARE YOU HERE?!
WHY AREN'T YOU ON THE SHIP?!
DID YOU BRING THE PEACH DUMPLINGS I ASKED FOR?
T-THERE WAS STILL SOMEONE HERE...
THANK GOODNESS! I ALMOST DID SOMETHING TERRIBLE.
LOOK, GRANNY.
THE KING CAME TO SEE YOU.

.....
RIGHT?
I AM THE NEWLY APPOINTED KING.
MY NAME IS YAKO.
HE—
HELLO!
...TO MEET YOU!
IT'S A PLEA-SURE...
OH...
HOW WONDER-FUL...
OH...
OH, MY...
OH...

I THOUGHT I WOULD NEVER BE ABLE TO RETURN TO MY HOMELAND AGAIN.
TO THINK THAT THE KING HIMSELF IS STANDING RIGHT BEFORE MY EYES...
.....
YOUR MAJESTY.
YOU WISHED FOR EQUALITY AMONG ALL PEOPLE. THAT WOMAN IS ALSO A CITIZEN OF YOUR NATION.
PLEASE, TAKE CARE OF HER.
I...
I WILL!

METHU-SELAH.
YES, SIR!
LET'S GO, METHUSE-LAH!!
GOOD! NOW THERE'S THE SLAVE SHIP TO TAKE CARE OF!
GRANNY, GO BACK HOME WITH THE KING!
YOU...
YOU ARE ONE STRANGE FELLOW.
WHY IS SOMEONE LIKE YOU...
...THE BOUNTY, METHUSELAH?

DON'T STOP SO SUDDENLY LIKE THAT...
~~~~~
METHUSE-LAH.
.....
YEOWCH!
ゴッ
THEN I WILL HELP YOU NEXT.
YOU'RE MY TARGET, BUT I WILL REPAY MY DEBT TO YOU.
IF I'M ABLE TO HELP THE SLAVES,
~~~~~

.....
WHICH ONE OF US...
...IS THE STRANGE ONE HERE?

B-BUT...
ITSUKI.
THE SHIP'S LEAVING SOON. YOU SHOULD GET OFF...

IF YOU SEE ZOL...
THEN PLEASE TELL HIM "THANK YOU" FOR ME.
...ITSUKI.
FOR CRYING OUT LOUD! WHAT IS THAT ZOL DOING AT A TIME LIKE THIS?
ALL THIS TIME...
KONA...
I HAVE ALWAYS BEEN...
...A RAG THAT MEN USE TO WIPE THEIR HANDS WITH.
...HE WAS SUCH A FOOL.
IN HIS EYES, HE MISTOOK ME FOR A SILK KIMONO.
...BUT ZOL WAS DIFFER-ENT.

...I WANT TO SEE ZOL.
I WANT TO SEE ZOL!
HE DIDN'T WANT TO STAIN ME...
SO HE ALWAYS DISTANCED HIMSELF FROM ME...
THAT'S THE KIND OF PERSON ZOL IS...
I MUST SEEM SO FOOLISH WITH MY BELLY LIKE THIS...
BUT...

I WANT TO BECOME ZOL'S BRIDE...
KONA!!

I'M COMING!!

HOW DARE YOU...
YOU'VE RUINED OUR FESTIVITIES JUST FOR SOME UGLY WENCH?!
HALT!!
SURROUND THEM!!
OH, WHATEVER! SHUT YOUR MOUTH!!
You idiot!
SEE? YOU JUST HAVE NO EYES FOR WOMEN, YOU WEIRDO!
UH... S-SURE.
She's cute
WHAT ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT? KONA IS A BEAUTY.
RIGHT?!

H-HEY, NOW...
LET'S ALL JUST TALK THINGS OVER TOGETH--
WELL, NO MATTER.
OUR PLANS MAY HAVE ALTERED A BIT, BUT NOW WE CAN EXECUTE YOU WITHOUT DELAY AS AN INSURGENT WHO OBSTRUCTED THE CEREMONY.

VERY WELL, THEN!
HURRY UP AND COME AT ME...
ゴゴゴゴ
ドゥッ
...YOU PATHETIC LOT!!
WAH!
ばっ
ワッ

HYAH!

ゴゴゴ
ギュ
ド

HUFF...
HUFF HUFF...
ZOL!!

HUH?! HOLD ON!
WHAT ARE YOU DOING ?!
....
USE THIS!!
ZOL!!
BLAST!

.....
カラン...
AH...
DON'T CRY OVER A FINGER OR TWO.
AIEE!
GYAAAAH!!

COME AT ME!
IF YOU DON'T MIND LOSING YOUR HEAD, THAT IS!
ゴッ
SCARY!
HOW...

....
ズキューン
.....
HOW COOL... ♡
AIM FOR THE REAR OF THE SHIP.
THOSE MEN ARE TRYING TO PROTECT THE SLAVES.

ボコーン
ズッ

WHO...
WHO'S THAT?
FATHER !!
HE CAUGHT THE SHELLS!

UNH...

I CAN'T HOLD HIM...
ZOL!!
ザザザ
ザア
ボキッ

?!
LOOK, EVERY-ONE! IT'S ZOL!
ZOL'S COME TO HELP US!
ZOL, KICK THEIR BUTTS!

GAH!!
H-HEY!
ゴン
STOP THAT!
グ"
UGH...

ZOL!
HAH
HAH
ドガ
ドガッ

...FEEL PAIN WHEN YOU GET HIT, RIGHT?
ZOL!
I CAN'T DIE SO YOU DON'T HAVE TO PROTECT ME!
BUT EVEN YOU...
.....
THANK YOU, ZOL...
THANK YOU.
.....
YEAH...

Hehe
ころし!!

SHEESH.
.....
DON'T RUN!
It's not good for the baby!
ズビシ
わしわし
ZOL.

HAND OVER METHUSELAH.
MASTER ...
ZOL...
AN ASSASSIN SHOULDN'T BE PROTECTING A BOUNTY.
WE WILL SAVE THE SLAVES TOGETHER.
WITH THAT MONEY,
TAKE METHUSELAH'S HEAD, ZOL.

I REFUSE!
....
ZOL...
IT IS I WHO BETRAYED YOU.
I KNOW I CANNOT ASK FOR YOUR FORGIVE-NESS...

...MY ONE AND ONLY SON.
BUT EVEN SO,
I AM YOUR FAMILY.
AND YOU ARE...
ハァ…

TCH!
NGH!

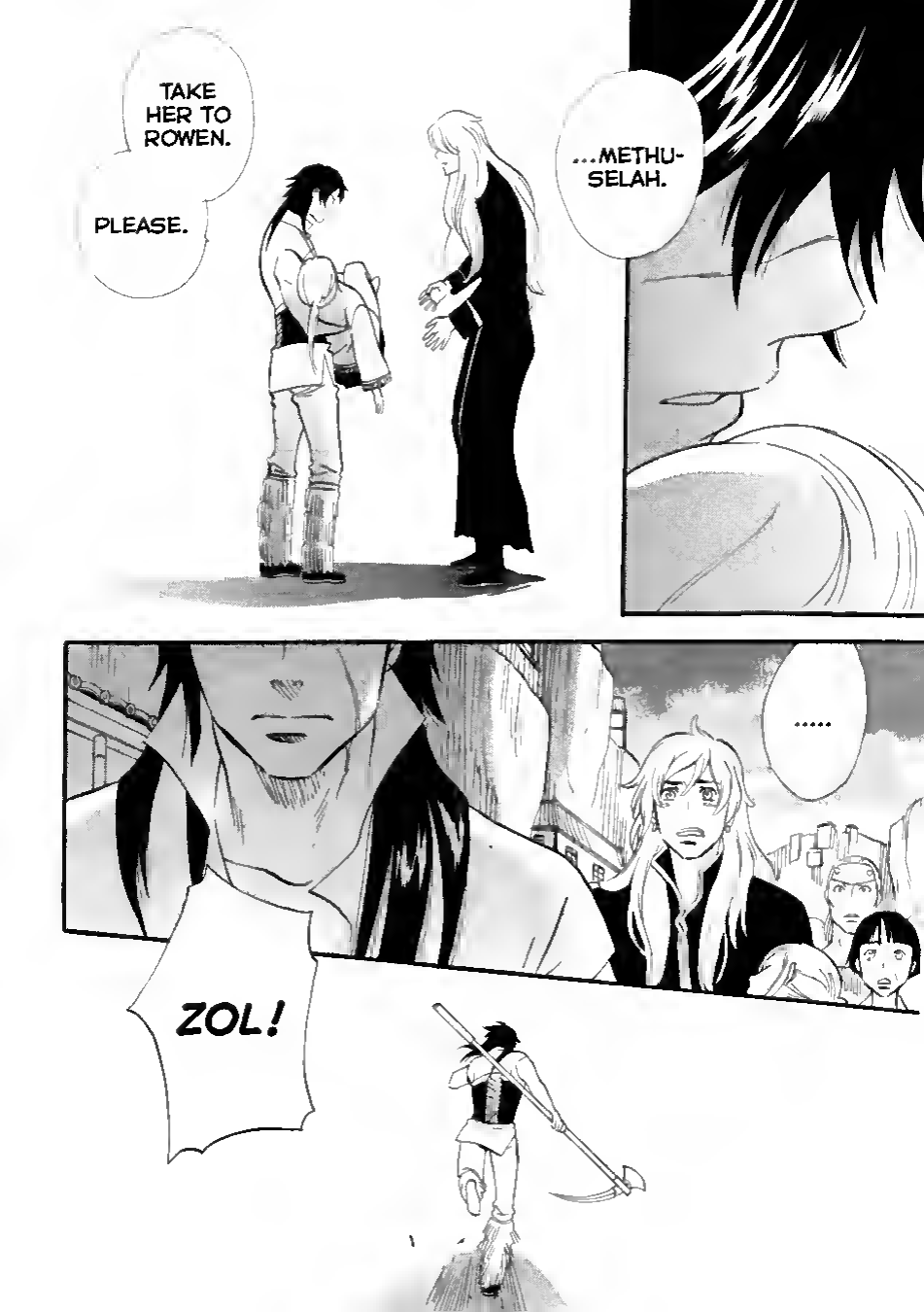
DON'T SHOOT !!

BLAST!
KONA.
KONA.
KONA!

KONA...
KONA...
ARE YOU IN PAIN?
AHH...
K-KONA...
I'M SO GLAD...
YOU'RE NOT TELLING ME NOT TO TOUCH YOU...
I...
IT'S BECAUSE YOU'RE SO PURE...
THAT'S WHY...
...NO.
NO...

...ZOL.
PLEASE ...
QUICKLY ...
EH...
AH...

.....
I'M SO HAPPY.
I'M SO HAPPY.


TAKE HER TO ROWEN.
PLEASE.
...METHU-SELAH.
.....
ZOL!

YEAH. THERE'S NO DOUBT ABOUT IT.
HEY. DID YOU SEE THAT GUY?
第四改口
THAT GUY...
...IS METHUSE-LAH!

CURSES! GET OUT OF MY WAY!
Hah
Hah
Hah
Hah
Hah

DAMN!
GYA!
AGH...
GUH...
UGH...

S—
STAY BACK!!
HAVE YOU FORGOTTEN THAT IT WAS I WHO RAISED YOU?!
ARE YOU PLANNING TO KILL ME?!
IF YOU KILL ME,
THEN YOU'LL BE ALL ALONE!

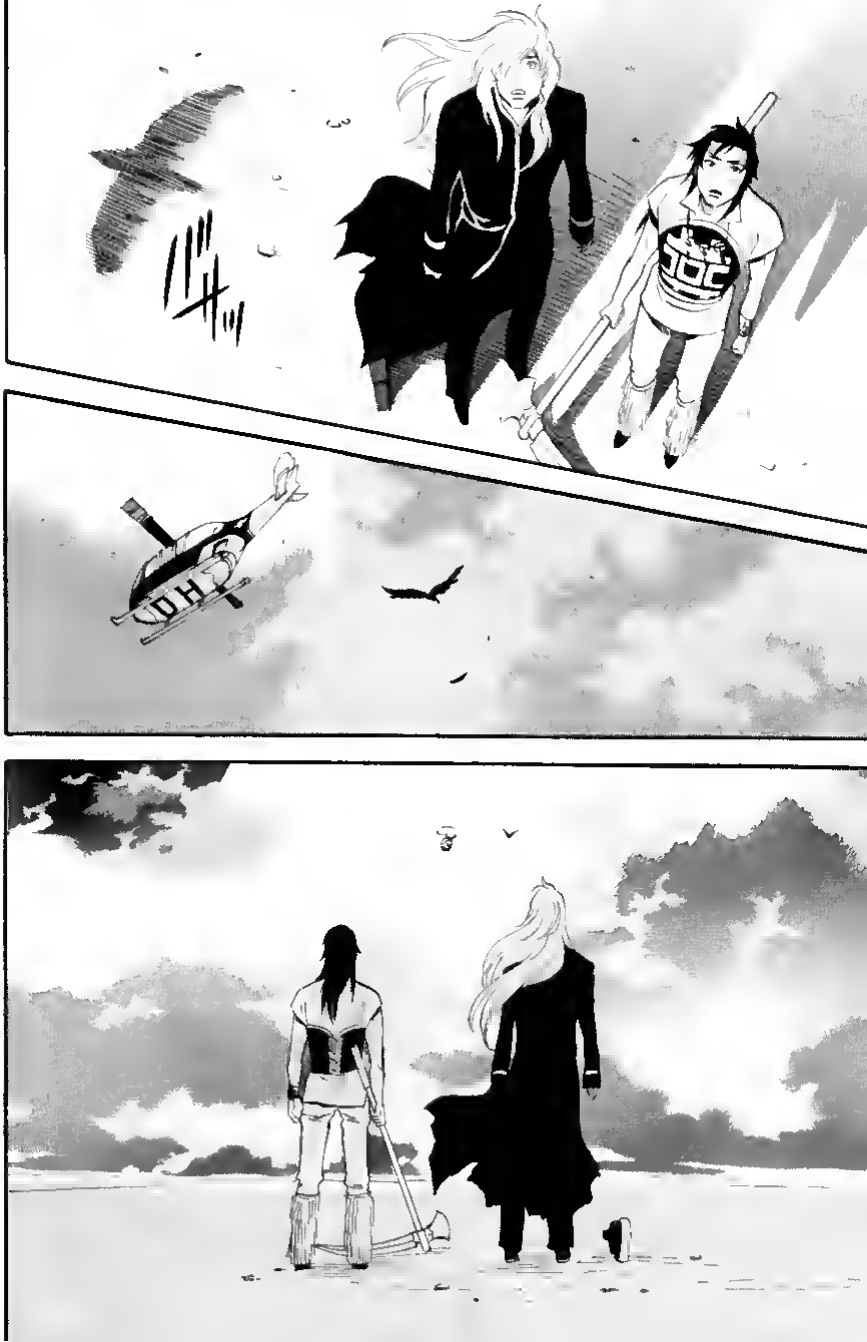
KNEEL DOWN!
JUST AS YOU ALWAYS HAVE!
KNEEL DOWN, YOU DOG!

ドスッ
DO NOT...

...EVEN THINK OF CREATING ANOTHER GRIM REAPER AGAIN.
ズル.
ドン!

ALONE, HUH...?
I'LL FLY HER OVER TO THE HOSPITAL AT THE UNIVERSITY IN RAIMEI.
I DON'T HAVE THE RESOURCES TO TREAT HER HERE IN THE COUNTRY-SIDE.
I'LL HAVE TO BOW MY HEAD DOWN TO MY FATHER FOR THIS!
YOU BETTER THANK ME, METHUSE-LAH!

KONA!!
KONA!!



YOU TWO OVER THERE! DON'T MOVE!!
SHE'LL GET BETTER SOON.
IT'LL BE FINE, ZOL.

WHERE HAVE YOU TAKEN OUR NEW KING?!
YOU WRECKED THE CEREMONY AND THEN KIDNAPPED LORD YAKO, DIDN'T YOU, YOU TERRORISTS?!
GIVE YOURSELVES UP!!
Y-YOU'VE GOT IT COMPLETELY WRONG!!
I DIDN'T—

HEH...
HEH HEH HEH.
MY DIABOLICAL PLAN TO KIDNAP THE KING HAS BEEN DISCOVERED!!
OH, NO! I, THE GREAT METHUSELAH, HAVE FAILED!
WH-WHAT ARE YOU DOING...?
I'LL WITHDRAW FOR TODAY,
BUT DON'T THINK THIS IS THE LAST TIME YOU'LL HEAR OF ME, IGNORANT FOOLS!
HOW DARE YOU GET IN MY WAY!!
DAMN YOU, YOU CRAZY ASSASSIN!
WHAT?
HUH?

I KNEW IT!
THAT GUY'S METHU-SELAH !!
はははは
THE WORLD'S MOST NOTORIOUS MAN, METHUSE-LAH...
...SHALL CONTINUE TO PER-PETUATE EVIL IN THIS WORLD AS LONG AS HE LIVES!
YOU BUF-FOON! STOP THAT!
IT'S THE WORLD'S MOST WANTED MAN!!
GET HIM!!
HE'S OVER THERE!
CUT ACROSS THE BRIOGE!
HEY! LET ME BORROW THIS TANK!

.....
ボーゼン
WELL, THEN.
Huh?
I'LL BE OFF NOW.

WHERE ...
WHERE ARE YOU GOING?
WHY DID THINGS HAVE TO TURN OUT LIKE THIS?
I CAN'T STAY IN ONE CITY TOO LONG.
OTHER-WISE, IT'LL CAUSE A HUGE RUCKUS.
THAT'S AWFUL!
YOU HAVEN'T DONE ANY-THING WRONG TO DESERVE THAT!
YOU DON'T HAVE TO DO THIS TO PROTECT ME!
I'LL EXPLAIN TO EVERYONE SO—
I HOPE YOU'LL BE HAPPY WITH KONA.
...ZOL.

カッ
ヒュッ
DON'T GO!!

...ZOL.
I...
...AM GOING TO MEET MY ENEMY.
I'VE BEEN LIVING ON FOR THAT PURPOSE.

I...
...WILL DEFINITELY HELP YOU!
JUST WHO IS THAT?
.....
WHO?
IS THAT PERSON THE ONE WHO DID THAT TO YOU?
I'LL BEAT UP THAT PERSON FOR YOU!
I TOLD YOU THAT I'D REPAY MY DEBT TO YOU!!

I...
WOULD LIKE...
.....
TO ASK...
FOR YOUR HELP, BUT...
.....
I CHAL-LENGE YOU TO A DUEL, ZOL.
...ALRIGHT, THEN.

?!
AH ...!

.....
HEH HEH.
I WIN.
.....
ZOL...
THANK YOU.

BUT YOU HAVE TO WAIT FOR KONA.
THANK YOU FOR OFFERING TO HELP ME.
SO PLEASE...
DON'T FORGET ABOUT ME, OKAY, ZOL?
WHEN EVERYONE IN THIS CITY HAS FORGOTTEN ABOUT ME...
SOMEDAY...
I'LL COME SEE YOU AGAIN.

BUT I'LL BE LEAVING NOW.
I'LL CONTINUE TO WALK...
...UNTIL I REACH THE HORIZON.
YOU SHOULD GO ON WITH YOUR LIFE AND FIND HAPPINESS, ZOL.

THERE HE IS! OVER THERE!
STOP RIGHT THERE, METHUSE-LAH!

SWOOOOP!!
ビッ
ビビビ...
IF ANYONE TRIES TO GET PAST ME,
THEN I WILL TAKE HIS HEAD!

THAT MAN...
...IS MY TARGET!!
THAT'S NOT FAIR...
.....
THAT'S ...

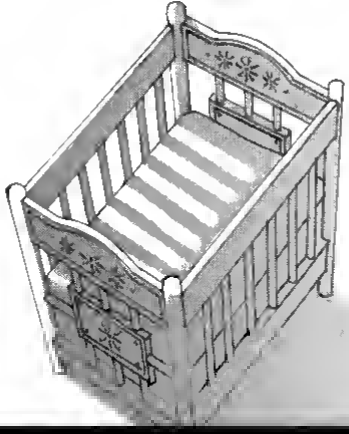
NEXT TIME,
I WILL CER-TAINLY DEFEAT YOU!
METHU-SELAH!
REMEMBER THIS!

WANTED
Another zero was added to Methuselah's bounty.
Fusa was ousted from his position as mayor after Zol Balfaltin turned him in.
And so,

Of course, this didn't mean that there were no more slaves in this world.
The history of slavery has been around as long as the history of mankind.
The residents of the slums were freed of their unjustified debts.
The government that permitted Fusa's human trafficking trade was criticized worldwide.
Most of the large amount of bounty money Zol had collected was taken by Fusa,
but some of the money was returned and then distributed to the slums' residents.
Some used that money to build new lives for themselves,
while some used that money to return to their homelands where their families were waiting.

...became the hero of the slums.
The Grim Reaper known as Zol...
time didn't wait for Zol to come rushing to Kona.
However...
...informing him of Kona's death.
Zol received a letter from Rowen...

Sunken into the darkness after having lost everything,



the Grim Reaper wept alone.

Don't you think it's such a tragic ending?

But,

this is where the story of Methuselah and the Grim Reaper truly ends.

And now....

this is where
the story....

of Grandfather and
my meeting begins.

WHOA ...
L-LONG TIME NO SEE!
ARE YOU DOING WELL?
ER, I GUESS YOU WOULDN'T BE...
I'VE BEEN BUSY AS A BEE SINCE WE LAST SAW EACH OTHER. I'M SORRY I HAVEN'T BEEN ABLE TO CONTACT YOU...
U-UM... WHERE'S METHUSELAH?
HE'S NO LONGER HERE.
WHAAAT?!
.....
WHERE DID HE GO?!

SO ANYWAY! YOU SHOULD CHEER UP, ZOL.
HERE YOU GO. A PRESENT FOR YOU.
Hold onto it tightly
TRUTH IS, I QUIT SCHOOL EVER SINCE THEN...
WELL, IT'S ALL GOOD.
I CAN GO LOOK FOR HIM MYSELF.
.....
Teehee
MY DAD DISOWNED ME, BUT THE TIMING'S CONVE-NIENT...
...SINCE I FIGURED I'D BE BETTER OFF WORKING AS A DOCTOR IN THE BLACK MARKET IF I WANT TO GET TO KNOW A BOUNTY.
すすすすす
OKAY, THEN! TAKE CARE!

WHAT'S WRONG WITH HIM?
.....
RO--
ROOOWWEEEEN!!
Kya♡

.....
Kona passed away after using the last of her strength to deliver her baby.
EH
EH
OH ♪

Dear Zol,

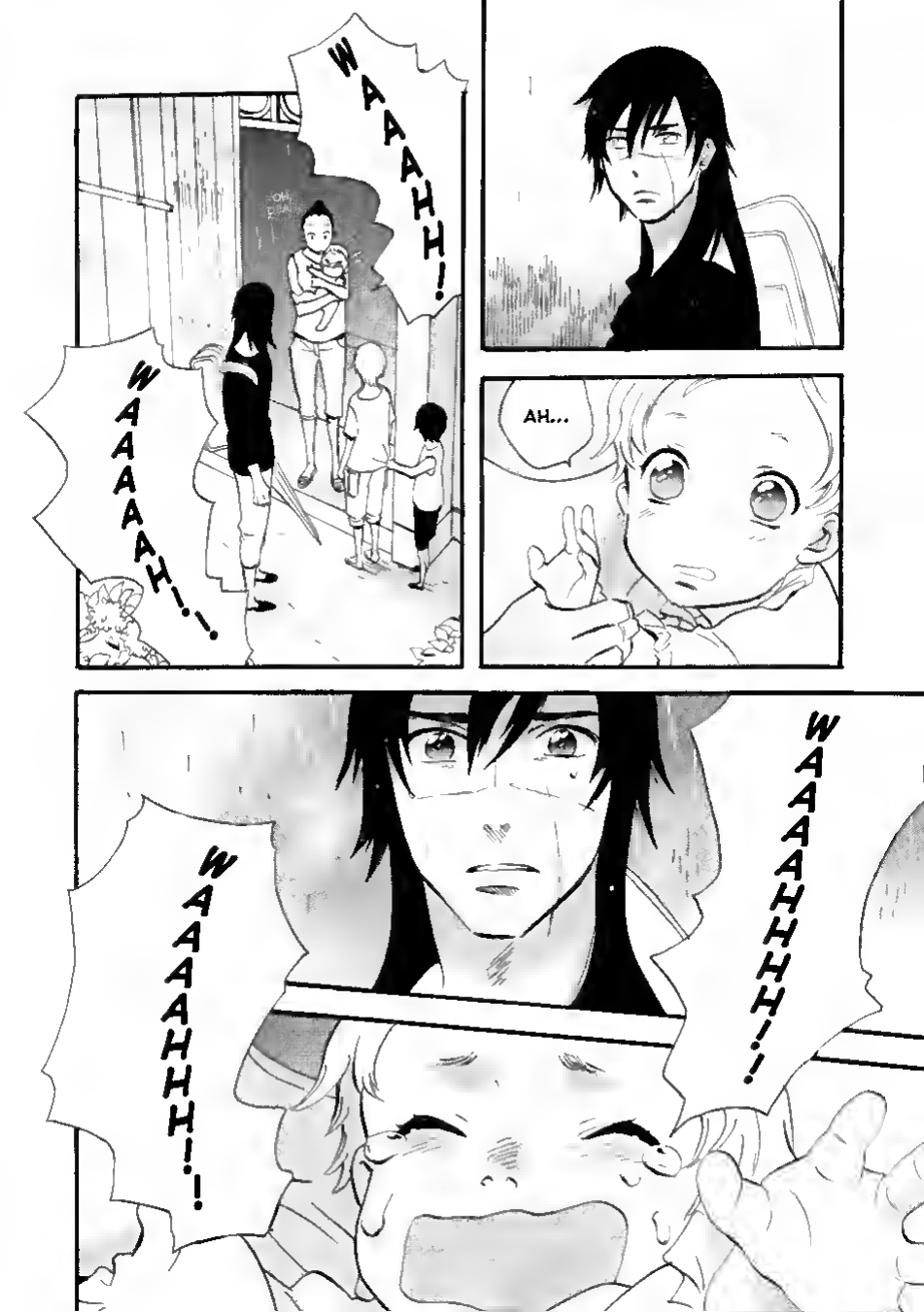
...and she's gotten so energetic.
She's one tough baby.
The baby's health was a cause of concern for a long time,
but there have been no signs of her life being in danger...

I thought it'd be best to leave the baby with you.
Make sure to pick a cute name for her.
She's a girl by the way

UNH. .
UUH. .
みるみるみる
ぴっ
H-HEY.
DON'T CRY.
DON'T CRY, PLEASE!
うやあああ
.....
ひぇえええ

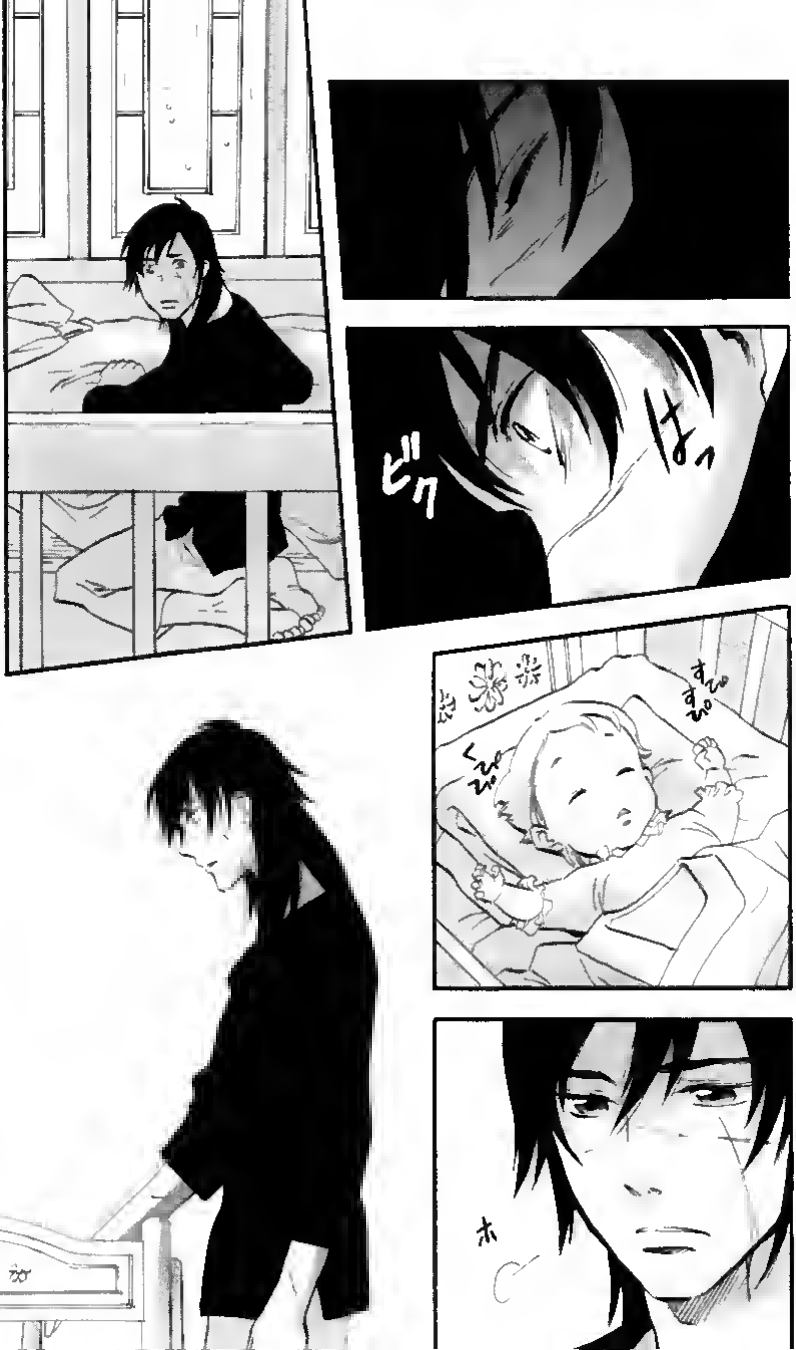
ゴロ ゴロ...
WELL, WE DO OWE YOU A LOT AFTER ALL YOU'VE DONE FOR US.
I'D LIKE TO HELP OUT IF I COULD, BUT...
I'LL PROVIDE YOU WITH MONEY.
PLEASE USE IT TO CARE FOR HER.
GIVE HER GOOD FOOD AND WARM CLOTHING.
TAKE HER TO SCHOOL EVERYDAY.
PLEASE DON'T LET HER BECOME SOMEONE LIKE ME.

PLEASE...
RAISE HER INTO FINE WOMAN.
.....
OKAY, THEN.
BUT I HAVE SIX BOYS AND A GIRL.
I CAN'T VERY WELL GIVE SPECIAL TREATMENT TO THAT CHILD.
I'LL BE USING YOUR MONEY TO PROVIDE FOR EVERY-ONE.
WOULD THAT BE FINE WITH YOU?
Nod
OKAY!
IT'S SETTLED, THEN. STARTING TODAY, THIS CHILD'S A PART OF OUR FAMILY.
COME ON, NOW.
SAY GOOD-BYE TO HIM.


WAAAHH!
WAAAAAH!!
AH...
WAAAAHHHH!!
WAAAAHHH!!

ばっ
Kya
Kya
...ZOL.
BUT YOU CAN'T HANDLE IT.
...I KNOW HOW YOU MUST FEEL,
THAT'S WHY YOU BROUGHT HER TO ME, ISN'T IT?
THAT'S NO WAY TO HOLD A CHILD.
...GOOD GRIEF.
YOU HAVE TO SUPPORT HER WITH YOUR HAND LIKE THIS.
.....

DON'T LET HER DIE!
MAKE SURE YOU DO EVERY-THING RIGHT.
I'LL BRING OVER SOME DIAPERS AND MILK TO YOU LATER.
YOU SHOULD PROBABLY THROW IT OUT SOON, THOUGH.
ザァァァ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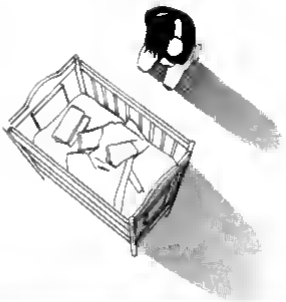
YOU SHOULD GO ON WITH YOUR LIFE...
...AND FIND HAPPINESS FOR YOURSELF.

I HEARD GRANDFATHER...

...CALL OUT MY NAME.



I DIDN'T EVEN KNOW IT WAS MY OWN NAME.

BUT AT THAT TIME,

Several Years Later
IT'S HOPE-LESS! WE'RE FIN-ISHED!!
ONCE HE SETS HIS EYES ON A BOUNTY,
THAT GUY'S AS GOOD AS OEAD!
HOW DIO HE FIND OUR HIDE-OUT?!
IT'S ZOL, THE GRIM REAPER!!
H-H-H-HE'S HERE!
YOU LOW-LIFES...
.....

SIT YOUR ASSES DOWN AND KNEEL!
IT'S TIME TO START YOUR LIVES OVER WITH A CLEAN SLATE!
And you! What's with those eyebrows?!
AREN'T YOU MEN ASHAMED TO HAVE FALLEN AS LOW AS CROOKS?!
I BET YOUR PARENTS ARE WEEPING THEIR EYES OUT AT HOME!
WE'VE GOT NO PLACE FOR BOUNTIES THAT ARE CAPTURED ALIVE!
ALL OF OUR PRISONS ARE FULL!
HOW MANY TIMES DO I HAVE TO TELL YOU?!
WHAT IS THIS, ZOL?!

I DON'T WANT TO.
IF YOU REALLY WANT TO CLEAN UP THE STREETS,
THEN BRING THEIR HEADS TO US!
...HEY, ZOL.
YOU CAN'T JUST GO AROUND STEALING OTHER PEOPLE'S TARGETS, Y'KNOW.
THE ASSASSINS FROM THE UNION HAVE BEEN TRYING TO TRACK DOWN THAT GANG FOR MONTHS.
IT WAS ALREADY DECIDED WHO WOULD CAPTURE WHO.
YOU DON'T HAVE FUSA BACKING YOU UP ANYMORE.
YOU SHOULD MAKE NICE AND SHARE WITH THE OTHERS.
BUT...
IF YOU KEEP THIS UP, THE OTHER ASSASSINS ARE GOING TO HATE YOU FOR IT.
IF I'M NOT THE ONE WHO CAPTURES THEM, THEN SOME OTHER ASSASSIN WILL END UP KILLING THEM.
I'VE NO INTEREST IN TAKING PART IN DISCUSSION WITH THOSE MEN.
IF IT'S MONEY YOU WANT, I CAN GIVE YOU SOME.

MACHIKA!
HEY, NOW...
GRAND-FAAAT-THER!
ちてててててててて

WELCOME BACK, MACHIKA.
...MACHIKA.
I'VE BEEN WONDERING, WHY DO YOU CALL ZOL "GRANDFATHER"?
SHOULDN'T YOU CALL HIM "PAPA" INSTEAD?
WERE YOU A GOOD GIRL TODAY?
UH-HUH.
DID YOU WET THE BED?
NUH-UH.
WAS METHUSELAH THERE?
AWW.
NO, HE WASN'T.

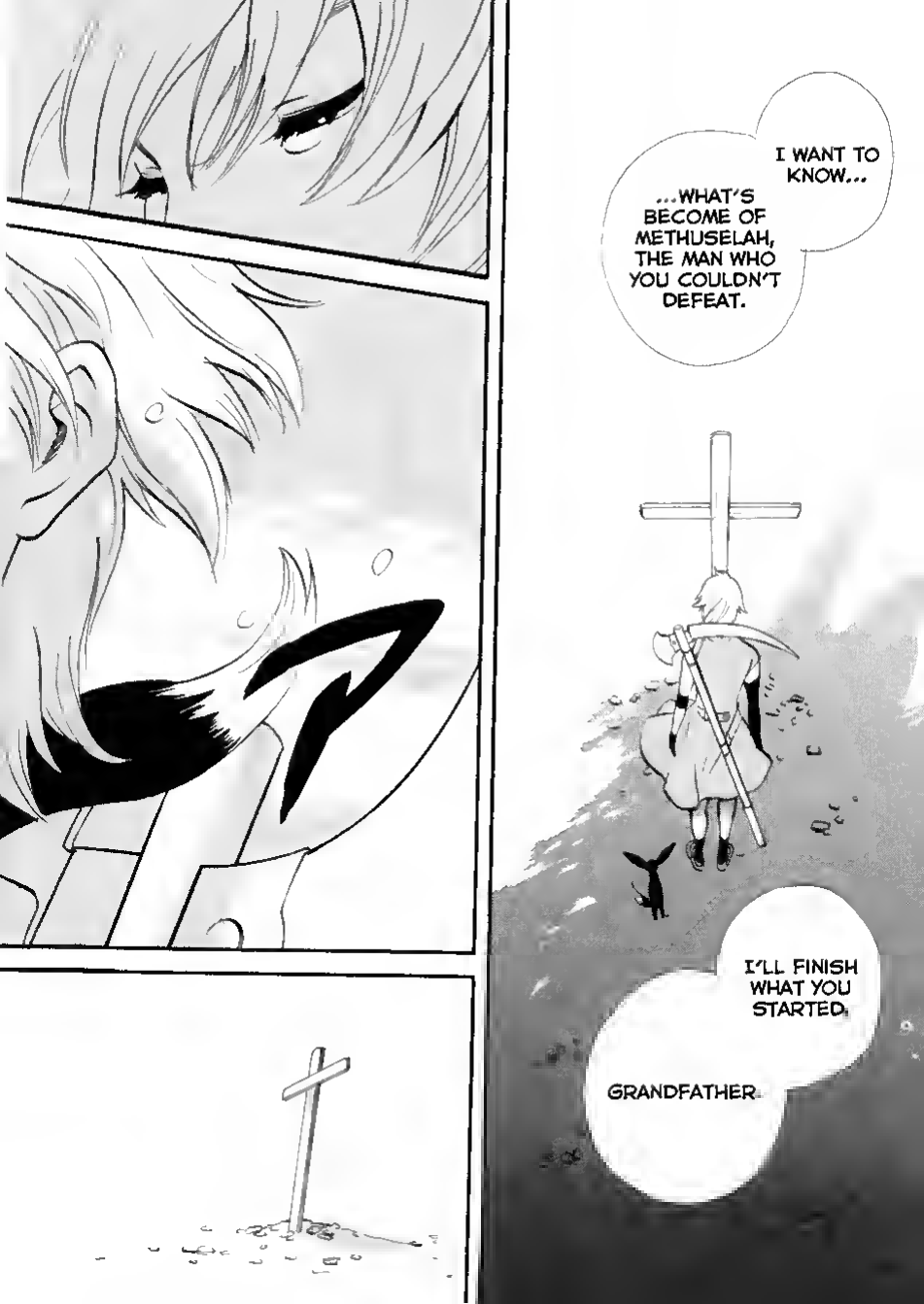
I MEAN,
N-NO!
KONA AND I WERE NEVER EVEN MARRIED!!
THAT'S NOT RIGHT, MACHIKA!
WHAT AN IDIOT...
PAPA?
TN: HE LITERALLY TELLS HER TO USE "WATASHI" (FEMININE) INSTEAD OF "BOKU" (MASCULINE) BUT THEY'RE TECHNICALLY NOT JAPANESE SO
YOU SHOULD SPEAK MORE FEMININE.
FE-MI-NINE!
...
WHEN I GET BIGGER,
I'M GONNA CATCH METHUSELAH MYSELF.
AND THEN I'LL BUY A PALACE FOR GRANDFATHER.
SILLY CHILD.
YOU'RE A GIRL.

METHUSE-
LAH.
.....
PA
PA
She remembered it instead.
WHERE IN THE WORLD...
...ARE YOU RIGHT NOW?
HURRY UP AND COME BACK, METHUSELAH.

I HAVE SOMETHING I WANT TO SHOW YOU.
WHAT I WANT TO SHOW YOU IS...
HEY! WE GOT HIM!
HE'S FINALLY DOWN!
.....
WH-WHAT'S WITH THIS GUY?
THE BASTARD PUT UP A TOUGH FIGHT!
HURRY UP AND FINISH HIM OFF!

HE'S SMILING...
It was...
the year I turned 14 years old.

Grandfather always said that if he were to be killed, it would be his punishment.
It was karma.
Years after ignoring his friend's advice,
Grandfather was killed at the hands of some young assassins.
I cried and got upset.
Whenever I heard that,
...GRAND-FATHER.
I'LL BE GOING, AFTER ALL.


I WANT TO KNOW...
...WHAT'S BECOME OF METHUSELAH, THE MAN WHO YOU COULDN'T DEFEAT.
I'LL FINISH WHAT YOU STARTED, GRANDFATHER.

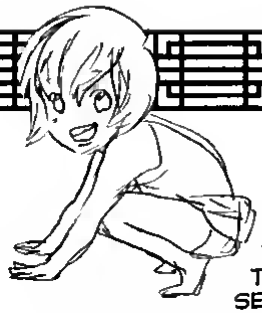
ダッ

UNTIL I CAN SEE THAT MAN.
I'LL KEEP RUNNING FORWARD.
MY GRAND-FATHER IS DEAD!
YOU'RE MY TARGET!!
THERE'S NO WAY YOU CAN BE AN ASSASSIN.
I'LL RUN SO FAST THAT MY TEARS WILL BE FLYING FROM MY FACE.
MY...
REAL NAME IS...

LIKE A BLADE FACING AGAINST THE WIND,
I WILL CUT DOWN EVERYTHING IN MY WAY.
I'LL KEEP RUNNING INTO THE DISTANCE.

I'LL KEEP RUNNING...
...UNTIL I REACH THE HORIZON HE'S WALKING TOWARD.
END

東方死神
Back Stage
BUSINESS TRIP
VERSION

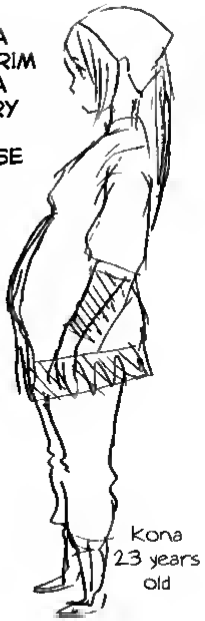


HELLO, EVERYONE! IT'S BEEN A WHILE! THIS IS OZAKI! THE STORY OF "THE GRIM REAPER OF THE EAST" IS A SIDE STORY TO "METEOR METHUSELAH". I STARTED DRAWING THIS DURING MY TIME OFF FROM THE ORIGINAL SERIES AND IT'S TAKEN ME THREE YEARS SINCE THEN TO COMPLETE THIS STORY. BECAUSE OF THAT, THE DRAWINGS AT THE BEGINNING AND END MIGHT BE A BIT DIFFERENT. THERE WERE A LOT OF COMPLICATIONS ALONG THE WAY, BUT I WAS ABLE TO FIND TIME TO FINISH DRAWING. I'M SO GLAD.

NOW, THEN. THE MAIN CHARACTER OF THIS STORY IS ZOL BALFALTIN, A CHARACTER WHO APPEARS SEVERAL TIMES IN THE ORIGINAL STORY'S FLASHBACKS. THERE ARE MANY TIMES WHEN I IMAGINE WHAT KIND OF PERSON MY CHARACTERS WOULD BE BEFORE DRAWING THEM, BUT I REALIZE THAT THEIR PERSONALITIES ARE COMPLETELY DIFFERENT ONCE I DRAW THEM OUT. HOWEVER, "GRANDFATHER" TURNED OUT TO BE THE MOST DIFFERENT CHARACTER FROM START TO FINISH. I NEVER WOULD'VE GUESSED THAT HIS CLEVERNESS WOULD BE SO LACKING... THEN AGAIN, SMART PEOPLE NEVER DO ANYTHING SIGNIFICANT IN MY MANGA. BY THE WAY, THE NAME "ZOL" CAME FROM MY FAVORITE INK BRAND I USED BEFORE I STARTED DRAWING MANGA. AFTER I STARTED WORKING, I'D GET SURPRISED WHENEVER I GET A CALL FROM THE PAINTING PLACE SAYING "TODAY WE'LL BE DRAWING WITH ZOL".

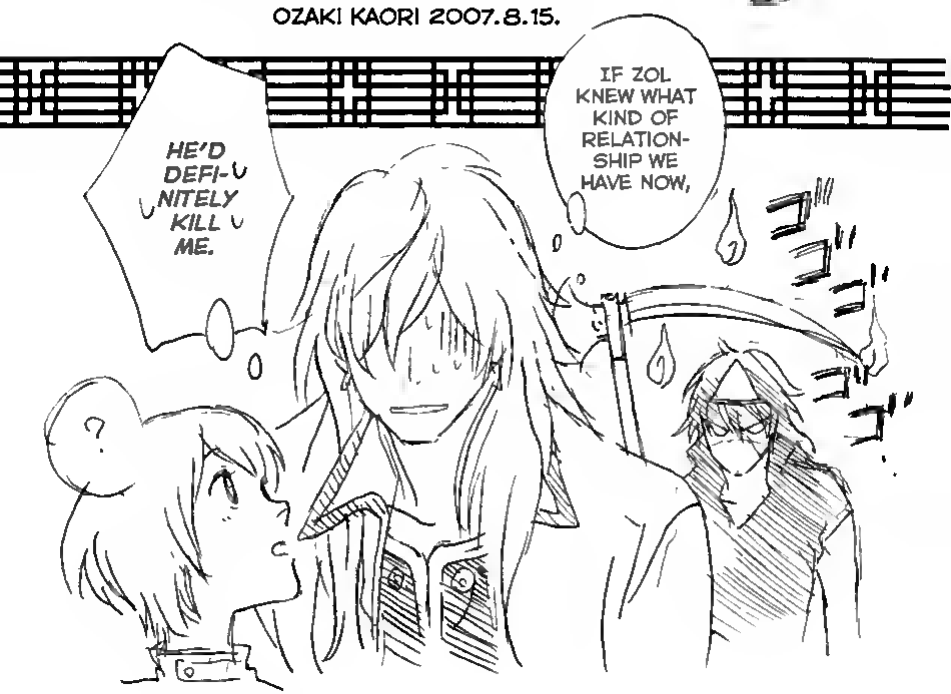
WHILE THE STORY OF "METHUSELAH" IS ABOUT A MAN WHO SEARCHES FOR A PLACE TO CALL HOME AND IS A STORY FOR YOUNGER PEOPLE, THE STORY OF "THE GRIM REAPER" IS ABOUT A MAN WHO IS WEIGHED DOWN BY A HEAVY BURDEN THAT HE CAN'T ESCAPE AND IS A STORY FOR ADULTS. AFTER I FINISHED IT, I FELT THAT I MIGHT'VE BEEN A BIT INEXPERIENCED IN WRITING THOSE KINDS OF STORIES. I WAS ALWAYS ASKING MYSELF, "THIS IS GOOD, ISN'T IT? THIS SHOULD BE FINE, RIGHT?", AND TOOK A LONG TIME TO FINISH DRAWING. BUT I PUT MY ALL INTO IT. I REALLY LIKED HOW ZOL'S STORY TURNED OUT.

WELL, THEN. WITH THIS, I DON'T HAVE ANYMORE REGRETS. THE ONLY THING LEFT TO DO IS TO PUT ALL MY EFFORT INTO FINISHING "METEOR METHUSELAH". THOSE OF YOU WHO AREN'T FAMILIAR WITH THE ORIGINAL STORY MIGHT BE CONFUSED ABOUT WHO METHUSELAH IS AND HAVE NO INTEREST IN HIS STORY, BUT IF YOU'RE INTERESTED IN WHAT HAPPENS TO HIM AND THE YOUNG MACHIKA LATER ON, THEN PLEASE READ "METEOR METHUSELAH". THERE'S A PREVIEW IN THE DRAWING BELOW...



GOODBYE. TAKE CARE. I'LL CONTINUE MOVING FORWARD WITH EVERYONE'S SUPPORT.

OZAKI KAORI 2007.8.15.



いつもウィングス・コミックスを
ご愛読いただきありがとうございます。
今回の作品はいかがでしたか?
ぜひ、感想をお寄せください。
■　■　■
ファンレターのあてさき
〒113-0024 東京都文京区西片2-19-18
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尾崎かおり先生

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